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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-007
Tuesday
12 January 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-007 CONTENTS *12 January 1988*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 January Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Conference of Arab Ruling Parties Begins 3
    Tunisia's Triki Arrives *[JANA]* 3
    Algerian FLN Delegation *[JANA]* 3
    More Delegations Listed *[JANA]* 3
    Al-Ahmar Leads Syrian Group *[JANA]* 3
    Mauritanian Arrivals *[JANA]* 4
    Al-Qadhdhafi Starts Meeting *[JANA]* 4
    Sudan's Al-Nasri Speaks *[Tripoli TV]* 4
    Al-Ahmar Addresses Meeting *[Tripoli TV]* 4
    More on Al-Ahmar, Meetings *[Damascus]* 5
    Jallud, Algerian Delegate Cited *[VOGAH]* 5
    Jallud Addresses Meeting *[JANA]* 6
    Jallud Hosts Luncheon *[JANA]* 7
    Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Moroccans *[JANA]* 7
    Committee Formation Continues *[JANA]* 7

Palestinian Affairs

'Text' of PLO Central Council Statement *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 8
PLO's 'Arafat Rejects Sharon Plan for Peace *[WAKH]* 10
'Arafat Requests UNRWA Help for Gaza Refugees *[WAKH]* 10
'Arafat on Israeli Weapons, Arab Meeting *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 11
'Arafat on Government, Ties With Jordan *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I 7 Jan]* 11
TANJUG on PLO Stand on Government-in-Exile 11
PLO Official Says U.S. Sending Israel Tear Gas *[WAKH]* 12
    Use of Poison Gas Alleged *[WAKH]* 12
PLO Radio Calls for Strike Until 13 Jan *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 13

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Benjedid Meets Ben Ali, Travels to Libya 14

Chad

Habre Discusses UDEAC Summit, Libya 14
New Consul General to Saudi Arabia Appointed 15

Egypt

Cairo Reports 10 Jan Demonstrations in Rafah 15
Ghali Condemns Europe's Attitude Over Gaza *[AFP]* 15
AL-AHRAM Indignant at Shamir Autonomy Offer 15
Al-Mahjub Returns From Iraq With Husayn Message 16
Kuwaiti Finance Minister Departs Cairo 8 Jan 16

Kuwaiti Paper Interviews Al-Baz on Issues 16
  Part One on Arab Relations *[AL-SIYASAH 4 Jan]* 16
  Part Two on Camp David Accords *[AL-SIYASAH 5 Jan]* 23
Opposition Papers To Protest Restrictions *[AL-SHA'B 5 Jan]* 27

Libya

Algeria's Bendjedid Arrives for Visit 28
  Welcomed by Al-Qadhdhafi 28
  Discussions Held 11 Jan 28
  Banquet Attendees Noted 28
Al-Qadhdhafi Cited in AL-SAFIR Interview *[1 Jan]* 29
Jabir Meets USSR's Kondakov, Sudanese Minister 32
Jallud Hails Current Palestinian 'Uprising' 32
Commentary on UK's Mellor Remarks in Israel 33
Adami, Maltese Delegation End Visit 34
  Joint Communique Released 34
  Banking, Oil Cooperation 34
  Departure Reported 34
Arab League's Klibi Sends Message on Tunisia 35

Sudan

AL-SHA'B Claims Israeli Military Aiding Rebels *[AL-SHA'B 5 Jan]* 35
Egypt Lobbies to Close Rebel Training Camps *[London AL-SHARQ AL AWSAT 5 Jan]* 35
SPLA Withdrawal From Kurmuk 'Tactical Move' *[Radio SPLA]* 35
Generals al-Fadil, Nasir Report Stable Security 36
Omdurman Reports Rebel Retreat on All Fronts 36
Cease-Fire Possible After SPLA London Contacts 37

Tunisia

Al-Qadhdhafi Expected To Arrive 16 Jan *[AFP]* 37
Algerian President Bendjedid Arrives on Visit 37
  Makes Statement 37
  Holds Talks With Ben Ali 38
  Contents of Talks Outlined *[Algiers]* 39
  Concludes Visit, Departs 40
French Foreign Minister Raimond Arrives 9 Jan *[AFP]* 40
  Holds Talks With Ben Ali 40
  Comments on Talks, Relations 40
  Meets Journalists, Departs 41
Report on President Ben Ali's Press Statement 41

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Further on Visit by Egypt's Husni Mubarak 43
  More on Arrival 43
  Visited by Prime Minister 43
  Talks With Amir 43
  Holds News Conference *[Cairo Voice of the Arabs]* 43
  Leaves for Doha 46

Qatar

Mubarak Arrives for 2-Day 'Official Visit' 46

Saudi Arabia

Egypt's Mubarak Holds Riyadh News Conference *[Cairo]* 47
King Chairs Council of Ministers Session 49

United Arab Emirates

Egypt's Mubarak on Gulf, Arab Affairs 49

IRAQ

President Receives III Army Corps Officers 54
Tariq 'Aziz, PLO's 'Arafat Discuss Uprising 54
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations 54
  Lloyds Says Iranian Tanker Hit 54
  Communique No 2,983 54
  2 Iranian Tankers Hit 55
  'Very Large' Maritime Target Hit 55
  Athens Reports Tanker Attack 55

ISRAEL

UN's Goulding Attempts To Tour Territories 56
  Denied Entry Into Gaza Camps 56
  IDF Explains Restrictions 56
  Mob Prevents Gaza Camp Tour 56
  Details on Meeting With Peres 56
  Rabin Talks With Goulding 57
USSR's Gerasimov on Kalmanovich, Visit 57
  Claims Human Rights Violated 57
Soviet Visas Extended; Shevardnadze Contacted *[HADASHOT 12 Jan]* 57
Soviet Control of Jerusalem Land To Be Honored *[DAVAR 7 Jan]* 58
Beilin Discusses Kalmanovich's Contacts Abroad 58
Syrian Presence in South Lebanon Concerns Lahd 59
IDF 'Prepared' for Syrian Chemical Weapons 59
IDF Denies Shi'ite Town Blockade in Lebanon *[THE JERUSALEM POST 8 Jan]* 59
Husayn 'Prepared To Assume' Gaza Security 59
Egypt To Build Security Fence on Rafah Border *[MA'ARIV 8 Jan]* 59
Egyptian Envoy Tours Gaza, Comments on Peace 59
Rabin Compares Rafah, Falklands to Territories 60
Shamir Suggests Resettlement of Palestinians *[DAVAR 11 Jan]* 60
Pamphlets on Civil Disobedience Distributed *[MA'ARIV 10 Jan]* 60
Rabin: Sinyurah 'PLO Agent' 'Playing With Fire' 61
Sinyurah Describes 9 Jan Police Interrogation *[HADASHOT 10 Jan]* 61
4 Deportees Rescind Appeal to Committee 61
Further Disturbances Reported in Territories 61
  1 Dead in Khan Yunus Violence 61
  5 Wounded in Jabalyah 61
  Arab Taxi Stoned in Shu'fat 62
  Curfew on Most Gaza Camps 62
  1 Killed, 2 Wounded by IDF 62
  West Bank Trade Strike 62
  1 Killed, 5 Injured in Rafah 62
  2 Officials Detained 62
Rabin: Slight Damage to IDF From Riot Duty 62
Anti-Riot Gear Exceeds Defense Budget Forecast 62
Palestinain Radio Urges Uprising in Territories *[HA'ARETZ 10 Jan]* 63
  Nature of Radio Examined *[HADASHOT 12 Jan]* 63
Labor Secretary Bar'am Resigns, 'Stuns' Party 64

LEBANON

Syrian Troops Wounded in Shtawrah Explosion *[RFL]* 65
Al-Huss Lauds UK Mellor's Position on Israel *[VOM]* 65
Birri Rules Out Military Solution for Country *[VOL]* 65
Army Denies Sa'd Assassination Charges 65
Friday Prayers Sermons Support Palestinians *[IRNA]* 65

SYRIA

Khaddam-Al-Shar' Tour Seeks To 'Cool' Region *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Jan]* 67
Chemical Weapons Charge Part of 'Campaign' 67
Commentary Notes Efforts To End Gulf War 68

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

News Conference on Guillo 'Espionage' Activity 69
    BIA on Foreign Journalists 69
UN's Ermacora Continues Tour, Visits Khowst 70
    Briefed on Returnees 70
    Received by Najibullah 70
    UN Press Statement 70
    Ermacora Leaves For Delhi 70
12th Supply Convoy Arrives in Khowst 10 Jan 71
    Supplies Distributed 71
Mujahidin Cut Supply Line to Khowst, Gardeyz *[AFP]* 71
Resistance Member on Shevardnadze Proposal *[Vienna TV]* 72
1987 Soviet, Government Combat Losses Noted *[IRNA]* 73
Leftist Parties Discuss Political Platform 73
Chamkani, Kawiani Attend Foreign Affairs Session 73
Kawiani, Sharq Meet With UK Parliamentarians 73

Bangladesh

Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Begins Visit 74
    Feted in Dhaka 11 Jan 74
Opposition Wants Polls Under Neutral Government 74

India

Reagan Clearing Way for Military Aid to Pakistan 75
Gandhi Confers on Current Sri Lanka Situation 75
Paper Urges Review of Policy on Sri Lanka *[PATRIOT 26 Dec]* 75
Gandhi Reportedly To Visit Beijing in Summer *[NAVBAHARAT TIMES 2 Jan]* 75
PRC Geology Minister Meets Counterpart 76
USSR Offers Latest Steel Industry Technology 76
Two 'Terrorists' Killed in Punjab 11 Jan 76
Police Companies Refuse To Serve in Darjeeling *[PATRIOT 30 Dec]* 76
Bihar Naxalite Movement Fueled by Economic Woes *[PATRIOT 1 Jan]* 77
Bank Estimates on 1987 Agricultural Production *[PATRIOT 1 Jan]* 77

Iran

Khomeyni Letter Calls Khamene'i 'Capable' 78
Majlis Speaker on Khomeyni-Khamene'i Exchange 79
Musavi Addresses 10 Jan Cabinet Meeting 79
Foreign Ministry Statement on Mubarak's Tour 79
Gharazi on 'Zohreh' Satellite Complex 80

Khamene'i Address on Qom Uprising Anniversary 80
    Stresses People's Solidarity 80
    Speaks to Battalion Commanders 81
IRGC Announces 'Help the Fighters' Days 81
Moqtada'i on Judges' Participation in War 81
Majlis Speaker Assesses Ties With Turkish Envoy 82
Iravani, Pakistan Envoy Discuss Trade Ties 82
Yugoslav Envoy Discusses Trade With Shafe'i 82
Soviet Youths Said Avoiding Military Service 83
Tehran Comments on USSR'S Mideast Policy 83
Deputy Oil Minister To Visit Japan 84
Media Official Returns From Foreign Tour 84
Members of Election Oversight Delegation Named 85
Commentary on U.S. Force Reduction in Gulf 85
UNSC 23 December Statement Condemned 85
Naval Training Center Opens in Bushehr 86
Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue 86
    Kurds Disrupt Iraq-Turkey Road 86
    Iraqi Missile Pad Destroyed 87
    Communique No 3,078 87
    Al-Sulaymaniyah Bases Set Afire 87
5 Jan Explosion on Iranair Plane Reported *[Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio]* 87

Pakistan

Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan Critically Ill 87
Bearing Arms, Processions Banned in Karachi 88
Zain Noorani Returns From Paris 9 Jan 88
Editorial Sees Greater Cooperation With USSR *[THE MUSLIM 2 Jan]* 88

12 January Middle East and South Asia Review

LD121412 [Editorial Report]

Israel: Disturbances in Gaza, West Bank

A Gaza Strip resident was killed and two others were wounded when IDF soldiers were "forced to open fire" during a 12 January brawl with inhabitants of the Jabalyah refugee camp, Jerusalem radio reported. The incident followed a similar clash in Gaza the previous day in which one resident was killed and five others were wounded, according to the radio, while another Gaza man died in the hospital from wounds received in recent violence. In the West Bank, an Arab youth was shot dead near Ramallah when Jewish settlement officials Pinhas Wallerstein and Shay Ben-Yosef opened fire on stone-throwing youths 11 January. Wallerstein was questioned by police on the incident but was later released following an appeal from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, the radio noted. The officer commanding IDF forces in the area told IDF radio that Wallerstein and his associate were justified in opening fire as their lives were in jeopardy. In a related development, the settlers organization Gush Emunim demanded that Jewish settlements be established in Jericho, Nabulus, and Gaza as "an appropriate Zionist answer to Arab incitement," Jerusalem radio reported.

Commenting on his talks with UN Under Secretary of State Marrack Goulding, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said in a Jerusalem television interview he had told Goulding that "all the talk about severe and sharp measures is baseless" as Israel is acting in "self-defense." Goulding visited the Gaza Strip 12 December, but was prevented by security forces from entering refugee camps that had been placed under curfew, IDF radio reported. Jerusalem radio noted that all but one of the Gaza camps were under curfew because of the disturbances. HA'ARETZ had reported earlier that security forces would expand penal measures in the territories through greater use of curfews and other forms of collective punishment. Among other press reports on the situation, DAVAR cited a senior official in Shamir's office who clarified that Shamir is seeking international funds to resettle the Palestinian refugees outside Israel and the occupied territories.

Outside Israel, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio broadcast a statement by "Palestinian national forces in the occupied territories" calling on Palestinians to observe a "general and comprehensive strike" until the evening of 13 January to protest the occupation. In remarks cited by WAKH, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat accused the Israelis of using "poisonous gas" against Palestinians in Gaza.

Egypt

Rafah Demonstration—A Cairo radio report on Palestinian unrest in the occupied territories 10 January acknowledged that "both sectors of the town of Rafah were the scene of violent demonstrations." However, the radio gave no details of the incident on the Egyptian side and did not confirm Israeli reports that Egyptian security forces opened fire to disperse demonstrators.

Mubarak in Kuwait—President Husni Mubarak was received by the Kuwaiti amir, Kuwait radio reported, noting that their talks focused on the Iran-Iraq war, the Palestinian "uprising," bilateral relations, and issues of mutual concern. At a press conference broadcast by Cairo Voice of the Arabs radio, Mubarak urged PLO leaders to "find a way of settling the matter of Palestinian representation so that there may be no excuse for not convening the international conference." The PLO and Jordan must reach accord on this question, he added.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi aircraft scored an "accurate and effective hit on a very large maritime target" off the Iranian coast 11 January, an Iraqi spokesman announced in a statement to INA. Athens radio indicated that the target was the 21,320-ton Cypriot tanker "United Venture," which was set ablaze. The strike followed Iraqi raids the previous day on two Iranian oil tankers near Khark Island, according to Manama shipping sources cited by Voice of the Masses radio. One of the targets was the tanker "Khark 3," which was set on fire while loaded with oil, the sources said.

For Iran's part, IRNA reported that Iranian forces used "accurate fire" to destroy an Iraqi missile pad on the east bank of the Tigris River. A military communique cited by the agency accused Iraq of firing chemical shells during a 10 January bombardment in the Sardasht area.

Syria

Reacting to a London SUNDAY TIMES article reporting the existence of a chemical weapons factory in northern Syria and the possibility of a pre-emptive Israeli air strike against the plant, Damascus radio said this was part of an "organized campaign" by Israel and the West to "intimidate" Syria, and to prepare world public opinion for a new "aggression" against it.

In Israel, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated that there is "room to assume" that Syria is equipping itself with chemical weapons and that the IDF is "prepared" for this, Jerusalem radio reported.

Iran

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, replying to a letter from President 'Ali Khamene'i, affirmed that Khamene'i is one of the "capable arms" of the Islamic Republic, Tehran radio reported. The letters followed an exchange last week in which Khomeyni told the president that he had "misinterpreted" in his 1 January Friday prayers sermon the imam's December statement regarding the limits of the Islamic government's authority in society. IRNA added that Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed "relief" at the cordial exchange of opinions.

Afghanistan

An 11 January PRAVDA article indicated that the withdrawal of Soviet troops could begin by the spring. Alluding to the agreement by the U.S. and the Soviet Union to begin acting as guarantors of the cessation of external interference in Afghanistan within 60 days of the signing of an accord, the paper said that if such an accord was signed on 1 March, "the withdrawal could begin on 1 May."

Algerian President's Tour

President Chadli Bendjedid concluded his visit to Tunisia and flew to Libya 11 January, Algiers radio reported. The station indicated that the "deep political talks" Bendjedid held with Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali have given a "new and strong impetus" to the achievement of Maghreb unity. In Tripoli, the president opened talks with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, JANA reported.

Sudan

Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi revealed that recent contacts with the SPLM in London have resulted in an agreement that a cease-fire "would be possible" after the lifting of the state of emergency, according to SUNA.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Conference of Arab Ruling Parties Begins

Tunisia's Triki Arrives

LD082222 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1805 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 8 Jan (JANA)—Brother Mohamed Triki, member of the Central Committee of the Destourian Socialist Party in sisterly Tunisia, and a delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli this evening to take part in the conference of the Arab ruling parties.

Brother Mohamed Triki made a statement to JANA's correspondent in which he stressed that the convening of the ruling parties conference, which was called for by the Jamahiriyah so that the ruling parties who are playing a role in rectifying the Arab political scene could meet, is an opportunity for dialogue between the officials in the Arab ruling parties. [passage omitted]

Brother Mohamed Triki also stressed the importance of achieving Arab unity, starting with the unity of the Arab Maghreb and moving toward comprehensive Arab unity. He said that the international economic situation, and the conditions surrounding us, impose unity on us, despite the fact that we feel deep inside that we are one nation and one people. This is a gigantic step representing a great force for this nation.

Algerian FLN Delegation

LD091740 Tripoli JANA in English 1435 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mouloud Kassim Nait Belkacem, the chairman of the Supreme Council of Language and member of the Central Committee of the Algerian FLN Party. Bachir Khaldoun, the member of the Central Committee of FLN in charge of culture and information. Dr Larbi Zbiri, the member of the Central Committee of the FLN and chairman of the Council of Lawyers and secretary general of Algerian writers, arrived yesterday in Tripoli to take part in the conference of Arab ruling parties. [punctuation as received]

More Delegations Listed

LD091752 Tripoli JANA in English 1430 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] 9, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—More delegations arrived in Tripoli to take part in the conference of Arab ruling parties.

Arriving were Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Asbahi, the secretary of the General People's Congress's Permanent Committee in N. Yemen. The delegations of National Democratic Party, the United Socialist Constitutional Party, the delegations of the party of People's Movement, the National Alliance of Liberals in Morocco. [as received] The delegations reaffirmed the importance of the conference's timing in relation to the Arab causes especially the central issue—Palestine.

They said that the conference is being held at a time of popular uprising of the Arab people in occupied Palestine against Zionist occupation, repression and tyranny.

They pointed out that the conference will provide a forum for opening a new perspective and earnest action to help our Palestinian brothers in their legitimate struggle against the enemy.

Al-Ahmar Leads Syrian Group

LD091814 Tripoli JANA in English 1050 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—'Abdallah al-Ahmar, the assistant secretary general of the Syrian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the delegation in his company arrived yesterday in Tripoli to take part in the conference of Arab governing parties.

He was welcomed by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud.

Also taking part in the welcoming ceremony were the secretary of the affairs of People's Congresses at the General People's Congress, the secretary of the Permanent Secretariat of the General People's Congress, the secretaries of the municipalities of Al Zawia and Al Jabal Agharbi and the chairman and members of the Syrian Arab Bureau to Great Jamahiriyah.

'Abdallah al-Ahmar made a statement to the correspondent of JANA. He said we are pleased to be on the soil of Great Jamahiriyah to participate in the name of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the parties of the patriotic progressive front in the conference of Arab ruling parties. On this occasion I would like to convey the greetings of the Syrian Arab people to their brotherly Libyan Arab people.

He added we came here with full hope that the conference, consisting of organizations, parties and groups of leadership in most Arab sisterly countries to come up with results beneficial to the march of our Arab nation towards unity and progress and confronting imperialism and Zionism and the realization of our national and progressive goals.

'Abdallah al-Ahmar is accompanied by Safwat al-Qudsi, the secretary general of the Arab United Socialist Party. Yusuf Faysal, the secretary general of the Syrian Communist Party. Fayiz Isma'il, the secretary general of Unionist Socialist Party. Tawfiq Salha, the member of the Regional Command. Hammad Saleh al-Humsi, member of the Arab Socialist Party. [punctuation as received]

Mauritanian Arrivals

LD091823 Tripoli JANA in English 1055 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Isselmou Ould Mohamed, the secretary of state in charge of combatting illiteracy and Maloud Ould Sidi Abdallah, the executive secretary of the Mauritanian Military Salvation Committee, yesterday arrived in Tripoli to take part in the conference of Arab ruling parties.

Isselmou Ould Mohammed made a statement on his arrival to the correspondent of JANA. He said 'This conference taking place on the soil of Great Jamahiriyah is coming at very important time through which the Arab nation is going through especially the sons of the Arab nation in occupied Palestine. [quotation marks as received]

Al-Qadhdhafi Starts Meeting

LD101207 Tripoli JANA in English 1042 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution yesterday inaugurated the conference of the Arab ruling parties.

Sudan's Al-Nasri Speaks

LD110145 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2119 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Address by Al-Mirghani al-Nasri, Sudanese State Council member, at the opening session of the Pan-Arab Conference of Arab Ruling Parties on 9 January in Tripoli—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brother Colonel, the leader of the revolution, brothers of the ruling parties, this meeting being held in the Jamahiriyah, the fortress of the pan-Arab struggle, gives rise to many emotions which tell the story of our nation's struggle over the centuries. In the framework of this meeting, on behalf of the Sudanese people, the State Council, the governments, and our brothers in Sudanese parties, we would like to hail the brother leader of the revolution and the Jamahiriyah's people for the great role played by the Jamahiriyah for our Arab nation. In this context, we would like to single out the great role played by the Jamahiriyah in our Sudanese experience of protecting the Arabism of Sudan. [passage omitted]

The Sudanese people have made many stands in numerous positions, the latest of which were Kurmuk and Qaysan. The Sudanese people were able, with the striking blows of their forces and Arab resources, led by military and fraternal capability supplied by the Jamahiriyah, to regain Kurmuk and Qaysan in the face of the racist attack, which was joined by multinational and multi-ideological foreign intervention. The Kurmuk and Qaysan experience, together with the Arab-Sudanese struggle and Libyan Arab support, is now the motto of this conference, because it embodies cohesion for unity and progress. Through you and with your permission, I salute the leader of the revolution and the people of the Jamahiriyah on behalf of the Sudanese people. I would like this to be a springboard for our call and our struggle for a comprehensive Arab unity. [passage omitted]

Sudan's recent experience and the Kurmuk and Qaysan incidents are indeed the experiences of Arab unity. Many believed that the Sudanese people's inner strength would be able to protect Sudan's Arabism. Despite our efforts to rely on a direct [word indistinct] solution acceptable to the Sudanese people, we have to adhere to our destiny to resolve this situation. From here came our brother Arabs' enthusiasm to support Sudan, to settle the recent stand and support Sudan's Arabism, and to face multinational and multi-ideological foreign intervention, which tried to deprive Sudan of its Arab and Islamic nation. Threats still exist, but seeking protection in our destiny has raised our determination and achieved victory [words indistinct] [passage omitted]

Al-Ahmar Addresses Meeting

LD110134 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2058 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Address by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Syrian Ba'th Party at the opening session of the pan-Arab conference of Arab ruling parties on 9 January in Tripoli—recorded]

[Excerpts] In my name and on behalf of my comrades and brothers from the parties of the National Progressive Front in the Syrian Arab Republic, we thank the brother colonel and the leadership in the Jamahiriyah for taking the initiative to call for this meeting and, prior to it, the meeting of Arab opposition parties.

We are glad to be together now on the soil of the sister Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah which has, since the advent of its revolution, made a habit of hosting such meetings, because the Libyan revolution committed itself from the start to the pan-Arab objectives of our nation. This is the cause, for us and for all the Arab militant brothers, of the troubles which increase along with our adherence to Arab issues of destiny. But such is the fate of our brothers and such is our fate, to live up to our responsibilities, as the brother colonel put it, in the defense of our existence; to be the generation of the Arab nation that is capable of adding new things to that which has been achieved by our Arab nation, not just for itself and its sons but also for mankind. [passage omitted]

It is true that we disagree about many matters, but does that mean these matters restrict us and make us prisoners incapable of overcoming them? If we have reached such a situation, it means we have come to a point where we no longer deserve to live. But in my opinion, we have not yet reached that level.

The importance of this meeting will be embodied by the results we can reach, regardless of the introductions with which we begin. We must go through the introductions, even if they are difficult and bitter, but we go through them on the premise that nothing is impossible if there is willpower and faith, and if there is a determination and readiness for sacrifice in a continuous struggle for which we are all mobilized, everyone according to his capabilities and capacities. With this in mind nothing is impossible. [passage omitted]

When the brother colonel addressed us on these crucial issues, we listened to his words with attention. He addressed our consciences and existence, and the responsibility we assume. Naturally, all this leads us to say that no matter what issues we differ on, the issues on which we agree exist, and maybe there are more of them. Basically, they are the issues that concern our destiny and existence, and our survival on this earth, where our enemies want to exterminate us and drive us away to build the racist expansionist state embodied by the Zionist entity in occupied Palestine. That specimen, which is backed and is receiving all the means to expand from the spot where it started in 1948, is a cancer destroying everything that surrounds it. [passage omitted]

I believe that there are three essential issues on which we could agree: the issue of Arab unity; the issue of the Arab-Zionist conflict and its core, the Palestinian cause; and the uprising going on now in the occupied territories and our immediate duty toward its continuation by backing the brothers who are fighting there with stones. The third issue is to agree on a method of action with regard to these two issues and many others, if we concentrate on these two main matters during this meeting. But there are other matters which should be regularly discussed by us. [passage omitted]

We must discuss all in frankness and openmindedness, without taking matters for granted as if they do not concern us. If there are difficulties, we should not think that we cannot change anything. We can change things and we might disagree on the extent of this change. Some of us think there is a possibility for greater change. [passage omitted]

I suggest we start with the issue of unity, which the brother Colonel put forward according to priorities, followed by the issue of Palestine and the Arab-Zionist conflict, and through it the uprising. After that we could set up a few committees which will draft the resolutions on the basis of the statements made by the brother colonel and the addresses the brothers will make. [passage omitted]

More on Al-Ahmar, Meetings

JN101322 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli—The conference of Arab parties opened in the Libyan capital yesterday in the presence of a delegation from the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the parties of the Progressive National Front of the Syrian Arab Republic headed by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, and the delegations of ruling parties in other Arab states.

Comrade Al-Ahmar spoke at the opening session and stressed the need to focus on basic issues, especially the issue of the conflict with the Zionist enemy, considering it is the central issue around which discussions must revolve. This is true particularly when we know that our Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories are experiencing a genuine revolution against the occupier, despite all means of tyranny, suppression, repression, and deportation used against them. In his speech, Comrade al-Ahmar referred to the plans of hegemony and expansion that are targeting not only Syria, but all Arab states. He affirmed the importance of the issue of Arab unity as a common denominator among participating organizations and groups. He also proposed a method for handling the work of the conference that was approved by the conferees.

On the sidelines of the conference, Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar met with the Algerian FLN delegation headed by brother Mouloud Kassim, Central Committee member and head of the Algerian Arab Language Supreme Council. The Algerian ambassador to the Jamahiriyah attended the meeting.

Comrade Al-Ahmar also met with Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Asbahi, secretary of the YAR General People's Congress Standing Committee. During the two meetings, the talks dealt with the work of the conference of Arab parties and ways to help it succeed in the service of the Arab nation's pan-Arab objectives. The talks also centered on developments in the Arab arena in general, especially the uprising being staged by the Palestinian people in the Arab territories, and on issues of common interest.

Jallud, Algerian Delegate Cited

LD101559 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Last night the brother leader of the revolution opened the pan-Arab conference of Arab ruling parties. Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud attended this morning's session at the al-Funduq al-Kabir hotel in Tripoli.

We have the following dispatch on the proceedings of the pan-Arab conference:

[Correspondent] Brothers and Sisters, our greetings. The following is a radio despatch:

Last night the brother leader of the revolution opened the pan-Arab conference of Arab ruling parties which is being convened in the Great Jamahiriyah. The conference resumed this morning. Brother Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud spoke at this morning's session, where he said: It is left to the brother representatives of some of the Arab ruling parties to draw up an agenda of their choice. He added: Our concerns here in the Jamahiriyah are pan-Arab concerns. He asserted that unity is an urgent problem; if we are divided as we enter the 21st century, the result will not merely be backwardness but extinction. The coming century is going to be the century of technology, mass production, mass consumption, and large political and economic blocs.

Staff Maj Jallud added that there are some important issues, such as unity and the Palestinian problem, about which there is unanimous agreement to include them in the agenda. He went on to say: We in the Jamahiriyah feel that all Arabs are the target, whether they be revolutionaries or conservatives.

Staff Maj Ahmad Jallud noted President Reagan's remark that the Jamahiriyah is a danger to U.S. strategic interests. He commented on this by saying that the United States has such a feeling because of the Jamahiriyah's pan-Arab stands.

A discussion on the agenda then took place. The heads and members of delegations taking part in the conference made speeches. It was agreed that the agenda will be as follows:

—Arab unity and the practical formula for it.

—The Palestinian cause and the Arab-Zionist struggle.

—Other problems.

Following the adoption of the agenda, the heads of the delegations began to make speeches. The Algerian delegation was the first to speak. The speaker thanked the Jamahiriyah for its initiative in convening such a conference and then presented Algeria's perceptions of unity. He stressed that the Algerian people continue to struggle for comprehensive Arab unity in order to halt the deterioration, and to create a force able to defend the whole of the Arab homeland. It added that the Algerian constitution considers a union as a step toward unity, not a substitute for it. Algeria does not see unity as merely sentimental links, but as the best means of enabling the Arab masses to liberate themselves.

To achieve union, Arab regimes would find themselves compelled to carry out consultations on various matters: how to achieve political coordination on Arab and international issues as a whole; how to intensify economic, trade, and technical cooperation; and to lay down well-considered and continuous plans on the masses' participation in the work for unions and unity, drawing up the necessary preparations for mobilizing public opinion around the union, and agreement on the means for combating Zionism and imperialist hegemony. [passage omitted]

Jallud Addresses Meeting

LD101902 Tripoli JANA in English 1445 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Quotation marks, punctuation as received]

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud attended the morning session of the conference of Arab ruling parties which resumed its proceedings this morning at the Grand Hotel in Tripoli.

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud addressed the conference. He said "It is an honour to us to have our brothers amongst us. It is an honour that this dear part of the Greater Arab Homeland avails the opportunity to all political Arab forces in whose hands power lies to sit in cohesion and consider their destiny. We participate with you to analyse the Arab situation and throw light on the danger threatening our nation from the ocean to the Gulf which does not exclude any Arab force be it conservative, moderate and it is not only aimed at a radical or revolutionary or progressive force. It aimed at the whole Arab nation's existence.

Major Jallud pointed out that our ills and problems concern all Arabs even the President of the American Administration when requested the Congress to renew the blockade against the Libyan Arab people he said that Libya threatens the national security of the United States and the U.S. foreign interests because of our nationalist role and stances. The brother leader on the 11th anniversary of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution declared that we are the product of a nationalist movement an Arab movement a result of the revolution of Abd al-Nasir.. The revolution of 1958 in Iraq.. the Algerian revolution on whose bullets we were taught.

Addressing the participants, Major Jallud said we would like to prepare the conditions so as to go ahead and work and decide freely the manner in which you would like to run your proceedings, the method of dealing with the work and the determination of the agenda through direct debate in which all will participate.

He added we would like you to use this liberated part of the Arab world to work and our task is to participate with you in analysing the Arab reality and focus the light on this reality and the danger threatening us all which if we stand towards it as spectators and if we entered the 21st century disunited we will condemn ourselves to backwardness and annihilation, for this century is of developed technology, intensive production and massive consumption which require a humane and geographical base and require a political and economic bloc in balance with other political and economic blocs.

Major Jallud added that unity is not a territorial requirement it a patriotic one and this means progress in Libya in the fields of education, health, the living standards and others depends on unity and it is the same for [word indistinct], Algeria, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, occupied Palestine, Lebanon and everywhere in the Arab homeland. [sentence as received]

He asserted that these facts became self-evident. For unity is no longer the cause of ideologues. It became the cause of the practicable people and the important thing is how to translate unity into our national programmes, literature and tangible reality.

Major Jallud stressed that we believe that this nation has militant resources and live forces if united and the intention is good and we give credibility to our words, we can provide the solution which would not come from the major powers or from abroad as it is in our hands and one which we should aspire for from our masses, from our reality and nationalist responsibilities.

He urged the participants to sincerely and responsibly discuss and debate as the Arab masses do not want statements but want sincere action whatever [as received] modest that may be. We will, he added, cooperate with you to find a way out from this reality as the solution must come from us and there is no one to give this solution and the solution is not going to be provided to us by the big powers or other political forces and blocs. We need adherence to Arab unity and come up with an example for this unity however modest that might be so as to bring it closer to all.

Major Jallud asserted at the end of his speech that the two fundamental issues before us are: The Arab unity and the liberation of Palestine and the two said issues cannot be isolated from the social revolution as the danger is threatening the conservative, the moderate, the socialist, the progressive and the radical and the Zionist enemy is seeking to destroy us all.

Staff Major Jallud concluded his speech by saying "we welcome you in your country and amongst your brothers and our problems are your problems and let us start work, God willing, freely and everything must spring from you as when it comes from all of us it will be guaranteed to be applied by all of us.

After the speech of Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, the delegations of Syria, Sudan and North Yemen addressed the conference on the method of drawing the agenda, the presidency of the conference and its rapporteurs.

Great Jamahiriyah was chosen to the chair of the conference and Algeria and Sudan were chosen as rapporteurs of the conference.

Also it has been agreed to draw the agenda of the conference to include the following:

—The Arab unity.

—The Arab Palestinian issue and the Arab-Zionist conflict.

—Other issues facing problems facing the Arab nation. [sentence as received]

After this the participants began their debate on Arab unity and the project of the Arab nation.

Jallud Hosts Luncheon

LD101907 Tripoli JANA in English 1757 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud today gave a luncheon in honour of the heads and members of the Arab ruling parties at the Equatrian School in Tripoli.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Moroccans

LD110940 Tripoli JANA in English 0855 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received the Moroccan parties' delegation that participated in the pan-Arab conference of Arab ruling parties.

The delegation comprised, the National Democratic Party, the Constitutional Socialist Union Party, the Popular Movement Party and the Liberals' National Consolidarity Party. [sentence as received]

Committee Formation Continues

LD111011 Tripoli JANA in English 0935 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The pan-Arab congress of ruling Arab parties resumed its (?sessions) last night in Tripoli where phrases of the Koran's "Al Fateha" were read at the beginning as a blessing to the souls of those martyrs in the popular uprising in occupied Palestine.

The session continued forming three committees of participating members. The 1st to deal with formulating practical resolutions about Pan Arab unity, the 2nd to deal with Arab-Zionist conflict and the responsibility of Arabs towards the Palestinian cause, and the 3rd to deal with formulating resolutions concerning other issues.

The conference continues today.

Palestinian Affairs

'Text' of PLO Central Council Statement

JN091947 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1756 GMT 9 Jan 88

["Text" of PLO Central Council Statement issued in Baghdad on 9 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Permission to fight is given to those against whom war is made, because they have been wronged and Allah indeed has power to help them. Those who have been driven out from their homes unjustly only because they said our Lord is Allah. [Koranic verses]

The PLO Central Council held an extraordinary session in Baghdad from 7-9 January 1988 under PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih and in the presnce of Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces. This session was devoted to the heroic uprising of our steadfast people in our occupied territory. It also discussed what the PLO Executive Committee has done so far in this regard and the requirements of the next stage.

The brother PLO Executive Committee chairman has submitted a comprehensive and detailed report to the Council on our people's all-encompassing uprising and the situation in the occupied homeland. The brother officials in charge of the committees and apparata of the occupied territories have also submitted detailed reports on the developments, escalation, and requirements of the uprising.

The situation was discussed in detail. The details of the procedural plans, the requirements to reinforce this blessed uprising, and the current developments on all levels regarding our people's just cause were reviewed. Also discussed was the fateful and positive reflection of these developments on all regional, Arab, and international levels and even on the level of confronting the racist, fascist Zionist enemy and its bestial crimes.

This great uprising has revealed the gigantic energies of our valiant people in the occupied homeland as a glowing and sublime link in our people's continuous national struggle under the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative. Our people are on the road to inevitable victory. They are struggling to liberate the Palestinian homeland from the racist Zionist occupation, to return to our homeland, to achieve our right to self-determination, and to establish our free independent Palestinian state.

This uprising constitutes the beginning of a new stage of confronting the Zionist-imperialist settlement onslaught. The major characteristic of this uprising is that it is continuous and comprehensive. Its waves will continue to escalate until liberation.

During the current uprising, our people have offered scores of martyrs, hundreds of wounded persons, and thousands of detainees. The bloodshed is continuing and confronting the Israeli-U.S. war machine strongly, resolutely, and faithfully.

Our heroic Palestinian masses in the occupied territory, who escalated their uprising in support of the steadfastness of our masses in Lebanon's camps 15 months ago, have now reached new heights in their present uprising. The overwhelming uprising is the product of continuing struggle and steadfastness within and outside the homeland. It is also the product of the cohesion of our people under occupation and in the diaspora—masses, cadres, revolutionaries, and leadership—in a revolutionary line. These are complementary tributaries which have joined forces to give momentum and strength to the triumphant march of our people.

It is a spectacular unity of all our people's forces, organizations, factions, and trends inside and outside occupied Palestine. This unity is inspired by a clear vision, self-confidence, and knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of the enemy. It is propelled by enlightened and ingenious thought that innovates new styles of struggle against the enemy's tyranny with every battle.

Our people—men and women—are involving themselves in this blessed uprising, availing themselves of the militant experience of our masses over the years. The young generation of boys and girls have come to the frontline confronting tanks and armored cars with their bare chests. They are doing so alongside our workers, merchants, peasants, students, and intellectuals throughout our occupied homeland—in the camps, in the villages, in the cities, at schools and universities, at mosques and churches, and even in prisons and detention centers.

In these waves of confronting the Zionist enemy and its war machine, our children are making the stones of our country the epic of defiance just as our cubs are making the epic of steadfastness in Lebanon's camps and in southern Lebanon.

Our masses have thus commanded worldwide respect and brought to the fore our just cause on the political, diplomatic, and media fronts. They have also brought our cause to the fore on the Arab level and internationally. This includes UN Security Council resolutions, which were passed despite Zionist attempts to keep our cause out of the international limelight and despite the pull of their strategic ally the United States, which stands by them and gives them all manner of unqualified support.

This blessed uprising is escalating and taking root to create new realities on the Palestinian land and to pave the way to freedom and the removal of the hateful Zionist occupation, as well as to achieve a just peace. Such peace would be embodied by our people's return to their land and also by the establishment of a free and independent state on our Palestinian national soil with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Welcoming the overall stands of Arab governments, the Central Council proudly appreciates the stand adopted by the Arab masses throughout the Arab homeland for embracing our people's blessed uprising and for reacting with it and supporting it. This stand expresses the extent of our Arab nation's adherence to the Palestine question, the Arabs' central cause. The Central Council calls on all honorable and free people, as well as all friends in the world, to do all that will enable us to supply this revolutionary uprising with all its requirements.

This is particularly necessary in the face of the unlimited aid our racist Zionist enemy is receiving from the United States. This nation extends all kinds of military, financial, political, and diplomatic support, as well as the most sophisticated instruments of death, destruction, and war, to the Zionist enemy.

U.S. opinion and world public opinion have pressured the U.S. Government to adopt new stands at the Security Council, which we hope will not be transient stands. This pressure was accomplished in view of pictures showing thousands of detainees and hundreds of wounded and martyrs and also in view of the savage practices and crimes against mankind by Israel against our people, children, and women. Israel commits these crimes in the same manner of, and even competing with, the crimes by its twin, the fascist and racist Pretoria regime, against the peoples of South Africa and Namibia.

In this serious and fateful phase, the Central Council calls on all democratic forces and on the Israeli peace forces to play an effective role, as has always been the case, to confront the racist and fascist iron-fist policy until we together establish a just peace on the land of peace.

O steadfast masses, the PLO Central Council has adopted a number of resolutions, measures, and moves to continue and protect the uprising's waves. Foremost among these measures is the meeting of all of our people's basic requirements. The Council has emphasized the resolutions and measures adopted by the Palestinian leadership to recruit all revolutionary cadres and forces in view of the new priorities imposed by the current state of affairs. The starting point lies in further reaction and sacrifices by all our Palestinian cadres to provide capabilities, enhance our people's ability to stand fast, and shoulder the burden of successive confrontations.

We view this comprehensive confrontation inside and outside our occupied land as the way for a just solution on the road to victory, liberation, repatriation, and independence. Proceeding from this premise, we call for a speedy convening of an effective international conference under UN auspices with the participation of the five permanent Security Council members, as well as all parties to the conflict in the region, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing with other parties.

This conference should be convened to achieve the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights on the basis of international legitimacy and in accordance with Arab summit resolutions, particularly those of the Arab summit held in Fes in 1982.

O our heroic steadfast masses, the Central Council has adopted several measures and resolutions to confront the accelerating developments and meet the necessary requirements of this blessed uprising. It has decided:

1. To form a higher committee, in addition to the Executive Committee, to follow up all uprising affairs and developments. This committee shall be formed from the PNC Presidency, the Central Council Secretariat, the Occupied Homeland Affairs Committee, and representatives of the Higher Military Council. This committee will be in open session and a working committee, for everyday affairs shall stem from it.

2. To urge Palestinian businessmen to perform their duty toward their people and our masses' uprising by extending material and moral support that will contribute to meeting the needs of our people's steadfastness and struggle.

3. To approve the Executive Committee's decision to establish an extraordinary budget and to ask it to take all necessary measures to set it up and to provide all requirements and commitments to continue the waves of the blessed uprising.

4. To demand that all Palestinian institutions, bodies, and organizations continue their efforts to bolster the blessed uprising on various levels and spheres and to continue contacts with all Arab and international institutions for this purpose.

5. The specialized committees will continue to exercise their daily tasks vis-a-vis the uprising and its developments on all levels and in all areas.

6. To bolster the popular and national action committees in all positions of confrontation in occupied Palestine—in camps, villages, towns, universities, institutes, schools, institutions, popular bodies, and other positions of popular struggle.

7. To ask the Executive Committee to set up a special fund to collect all donations for the continuation of the waves of the blessed uprising.

8. To call on the Arab masses and their national forces to form popular committees to back and support this blessed uprising.

9. To demand an immediate international protection of our people's masses, children, and women until the termination of occupation.

10. To emphasize to the sisterly Arab states that they should take a firm stand to foil the deportation and expulsion measures by the Israeli occupation authorities and to work with all friendly states so that they will contribute to stopping this crime.

The Central Council, while meeting on the land of proud sisterly Iraq, salutes the Iraqi people and their valiant Army under the leadership of the Arab cavalier Saddam Husayn, who is defending the eastern flank of our Arab nation. We thank him for his noble initiative to embrace the uprising martyrs and treat them on an equal footing with their brothers the martyrs of the valiant Iraqi Army. It also thanks the Arab governments which adopted measures and decisions in support of this blessed uprising.

In this regard, it thanks all the friendly states and nations which supported our people's struggle and blessed uprising, especially the friends in the nonaligned, Islamic, African, Latin American, and socialist countries—headed by the Soviet Union—and the PRC. It also thanks the friendly European states, other friendly countries, and all friendly world forces, organizations, and parties which stood and continue to stand on the side of our people's just struggle and legitimate right to live free and sovereign over their free, independent land just like everyone else.

The Central Council, while addressing our people's masses inside and outside the occupied homeland, emphasizes its determination to pursue our people's victorious march along the road to free, independent Palestine, with the help of God the Almighty. We promise the martyrs' souls that we will continue along the revolutionary path until liberation and victory. Revolution until victory.

PLO's 'Arafat Rejects Sharon Plan for Peace

JN111652 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1401 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has rejected an offer by Israeli Minister Ari'el Sharon to build houses for the Palestinians in return for ending the uprising.

In statements to a number of Arab and world news agency and radio correspondents here today, the Palestinian leader said that the butcher Sharon, who killed our women and children in Sabra and Shatila, should know that he cannot confront or subjugate our people nor can he continue to occupy our usurped land. 'Arafat added: The Palestinian people do not need Sharon's housing plans being proposed to us now through Sharon's ugly face. Our people demand that this butcher, his soldiers, and the usurping settlers leave our land and end the occupation.

'Arafat stressed that the Palestinian people will triumph in the end. He said: Sharon must know this well. Replying to a question on Israeli war minister Yitzhaq Rabin's admission that taking control of the uprising needs some time, 'Arafat said: Just as the Israeli Army's soldiers were unable to defeat our people in Lebanon despite all savage massacres, Rabin's soldiers will also be unable to defeat or repress our people inside occupied Palestine.

He asserted that the Palestinian people's victory will be a historic inevitability. He added: Let Rabin recall that at the Brookings Institute in the United States he arrogantly promised to end the uprising 1 or 2 days after his visit to the United States ended. But Rabin has admitted his impotence 3 weeks after his return from the United States—that he has not been able to do anything.

In conclusion, the PLO Executive Committee chairman said what has happened is that our heroic Palestinian people have been standing fast for the 6th consecutive week before the Israeli-U.S. war machine and that Palestinian blood is triumphing over the Israeli sword.

'Arafat Requests UNRWA Help for Gaza Refugees

JN112054 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1914 GMT 11 Jan 88

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 11 Jan (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that the Israeli occupation authorities have sent approximately 70,000 mechanized troops to confront the mass uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In statements to Arab and world news agency correspondents this afternoon, 'Arafat stated: The enemy has included tanks, tracked vehicles, and helicopters in its operations to confront the mammoth wave of uprising which rejects occupation. [passage omitted]

Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said he had asked the UNRWA today to meet the needs of the camp inhabitants in Gaza since their food supplies have been depleted as a result of the Israeli siege. He added that in the PLO's name he had asked the UNRWA to immediately send part of the food supplies allocated to the Palestinian camps in Lebanon last year, which have not been distributed yet due to the continued siege of these camps, to the camp inhabitants in Gaza. [passage omitted]

'Arafat on Israeli Weapons, Arab Meeting

JN112023 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] In a telephone conversation, Yasir 'Arafat told our radio that the Israeli Army has thrown new weapons into the battle, including tanks and armored personnel carriers. He said the Israeli Army had used helicopters for the first time. 'Arafat asserted that the most serious thing is that in addition to the small tear gas shells, the Israeli Army had used shells whose weight ranged from 16-20 kg recently imported from the United States. 'Arafat added: We have one such bomb that did not explode.

'Arafat said: Clearly the Israeli Army has a plan for escalation and the matter is now being studied by the Palestinian command in consultation with our brothers in the occupied territory so as to face all circumstances.

'Arafat reported: We have agreed to convene an Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis after the UN secretary general submits his report to the Security Council—although some brothers are suggesting that such a meeting be held 1 or 2 days prior to the Security Council meeting. Contacts are continuing to fix a final date.

Referring to the role carried out by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, Yasir 'Arafat said: We are holding intensive contacts with the UN secretary general, who is being briefed on the situation in the occupied territory by his assistant, Marrack Goulding.

With regard to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's tour, 'Arafat noted: We are following it closely. A Palestinian delegation will meet with President Mubarak on his return to Cairo.

'Arafat on Government, Ties With Jordan

JN101502 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 7 Jan 88 pp 1, 8

[By 'Atif 'Awdah]

[Text] Fes—In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD yesterday, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said that the Jerusalem Committee—which concluded its meetings in Ifrane, Morocco, the night before last—has approved the allocation of $11 million to support the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territory. He said his meeting with King Hassan II resulted in the turning of a new leaf in Moroccan-PLO relations.

'Arafat said the Jerusalem Committee's resolutions are in harmony with the Muslim stand in support of our people's uprising in the occupied territory. He declared that agreement was reached to form a follow-up committee comprising members of the Jerusalem Committee under the supervision of King Hassan II to make efforts on an international level to implement the resolutions of the Jerusalem Committee.

In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD 'Arafat asserted that his meeting with the Moroccan monarch has removed all misunderstanding between the latter and the PLO.

'Arafat said there is an important development in the U.S. stand on the Palestinian question. He noted that although the weapons with which our people in the occupied territory are being killed are American, the U.S. vote for the Security Council resolution on preventing Israel from deporting Palestinians from the occupied territory and the U.S. abstention on the vote on the Security Council resolution condemning Israeli actions in the occupied territory constitute a positive stand.

'Arafat, however, ruled out the possibility of such a positive stand leading to a Palestinian-U.S. dialogue.

With regard to a Palestinian government-in-exile, the PLO chairman said that if such a government is formed it will need a political program approved by the PNC, the highest legislative authority.

The Palestinian leader acknowledged differing views within the Fatah Central Committee, but he underlined the Palestinian revolution's pride in its democracy. He added that he is happy to have different views, both within the Fatah Central Committee and the PLO.

'Arafat said relations with Jordan are not as good as they should be. He said a Palestinian delegation led by Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] will visit Amman. He expressed the desire for development in Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

Referring to relations with Syria, the PLO chairman said there is no development in these relations with the exception of an exchange of memorandums and the visit of some Palestinian delegations to Damascus.

In conclusion, 'Arafat said he was scheduled to visit Moscow this month but the visit has been postponed because of the Palestinian people's uprising. He expressed the hope the visit would take place in February.

TANJUG on PLO Stand on Government-in-Exile

LD101446 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1345 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, January 10 (TANJUG)—Indications that a Palestinian government in exile will be formed are increasingly frequent in Cairo and in Arab circles close to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Officially, statements do not go further than that the idea is still in the stage of serious examination, but unofficially it can be heard that the most prominent PLO officials have already reached agreement to set up a government in exile. It is added that an official announcement on its founding can be expected already next month.

Two weeks ago PLO's Yasir 'Arafat gave the first clearer indication when he said he had already discussed the idea in the Arab world and Europe, but that the final decision has not yet been taken.

'Arafat specified, however, that the PLO has already formed a legal committee which is working out the details of forming a government in exile.

According to Fatah's Cairo representative, Zuhdi al-Qidrah, conflicts on the occupied West Bank and in the Gaza Strip have convinced the moderate wing within the PLO that the time has come to form a Palestinian government in exile.

PLO Official Says U.S. Sending Israel Tear Gas

JN112000 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1750 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 11 Jan (WAKH)—A prominent Palestinian official has accused the United States of sending emergency military equipment to Israel for use in quelling the mammoth mass uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Bassam Abu Sharif, information adviser to the PLO Executive Committee chairman, this afternoon said Palestinian demonstrators in the Gaza camps have captured some tear gas shells used by the Israeli occupation forces. The shells bear markings indicating they were made in the United States in 1988 [figure as received].

Abu Sharif added that these shells, which weigh 15 kg each, are fired from special launchers put in helicopters and can kill innocent people. Appealing to U.S. public opinion and the American people, who are watching on television the repressive military practices and the organized terrorist operations carried out by the Zionist occupation forces against the Palestinian civilians, he said that the U.S. people's support for the Palestinian people will not only be support for our people but will also be in harmony with the U.S. revolution and Constitution.

He added that the PLO calls on public opinion to stand in the face of the U.S. Administration, which supplies Israel with sophisticated weapons which are being used against unarmed children in Palestinian camps, villages, and cities.

Abu Sharif urged the Red Cross societies, particularly those in the European states, to quickly carry out their humanitarian duty and help the wounded inside the camps. He said the Palestinian camp inhabitants are now being subjected to the ugliest campaigns of racial oppression. He called on the UN secretary general and his representative, Marrack Goulding, who is now in the occupied territories, to reveal the truth to world public opinion and take practical measures to protect our people from the racist clique, which did not hesitate to use heavy tanks and helicopters against unarmed civilians.

Abu Sharif also has refuted enemy Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's allegations that only one martyr fell in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip yesterday. In a statement to a number of world and Arab news agency correspondents this afternoon, Abu Sharif said the PLO affirms that five martyrs have fallen.

The Palestinian official presented a namelist of 47 wounded, saying that we have managed to obtain it despite the blackout policy and the prevention of journalists from reaching Palestinian cities and camps. Abu Sharif added that the Israeli authorities have also prevented ambulances from transferring the wounded to hospitals. [passage omitted]

Abu Sharif said the Israeli enemy today committed another crime against the Gaza Strip's inhabitants by cutting off its water supplies for 2 weeks. [passage omitted]

Use of Poison Gas Alleged

JN120910 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has accused the Israeli occupation authorities of using poisonous substances in their operations to suppress the popular uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

'Arafat said in a press conference at midnight last night that he had received reports confirming that poisonous gas was used in Rafah, Al-Shaburah quarter, and Yanbah camp in Gaza.

He said the gas, which is released in the form of powder from hoses, causes severe burns on the body.

'Arafat stressed that the use of this poisonous substance came a short while after the Israeli occupation forces had started using the new U.S. tear gas against residential areas and camps in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

He said this constitutes a grave Israeli military escalation against civilians, in addition to the extensive use of tanks, armored vehicles, and helicopters in the repressive operations.

'Arafat described the offers which Israeli leaders make from time to time to end the uprising as sterile attempts and cheap bribes to end the uprising. He said Shamir and all the Israeli leaders will not be able to defeat the stone or the RPG generation.

'Arafat said the attacks by the occupation forces on Bayt al-Ma' camp near Nabulus forced the camp's 3000 inhabitants to escape to the surrounding hills as clashes with the Israeli Army continued.

PLO Radio Calls for Strike Until 13 Jan

JN112048 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Statement by "the Palestinian national forces in the occupied territories"; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Call, call, call: Our people's glorious uprising continues. We affirm the need to express solidarity with our people wherever they are. We continue to be loyal to the pure blood of our martyrs and to our detained brothers. We also reiterate our rejection of the occupation and its policy of repression, represented in the policy of deportation, mass arrests, curfews, and the demolition of houses.

We reaffirm the need to achieve further cohesion with our revolution and our heroic masses. We also stress our abidance by the call of the PLO, the Palestinian people's legitimate and sole representative, and the need to pursue the bountiful offerings and the heroic uprising. For all these reasons, we address the following call:

All sectors of our heroic people in every location should abide by the call for a general and comprehensive strike until Wednesday evening, 13 January 1988. The strike covers all public and private trade utilities, the Palestinian labor class, and public transportation. Abidance by the comprehensive strike must be complete. The slogan of the strike will be: Down with occupation; long live Palestine as a free and Arab country.

Brother workers, your abidance by the strike by not going to work and to plants is real support for the glorious uprising, a sanctioning of the pure blood of our martyrs, a support for the call to liberate our prisoners, and an act that will help keep our brother deportees in their homeland.

Brother businessmen and grocers, you must fully abide by the call for a comprehensive strike during the period of the strike. Your abidance by previous strikes is one of the most splendid images of solidarity and sacrfice for the sake of rendering our heroic people's stand a success. We will do our best to protect the interests of our honest businessmen against measures the Zionist occupation force may resort to against you. We warn against the consequences of becoming involved with some of the occupation authorities' henchmen who will seek to make you open your businesses. We promise you that we will punish some traitor businessmen in the not too distant future. Let us proceed united to forge victory.

Brother owners of taxi companies, we will not forget your honorable and splendid stand of supporting and implementing the comprehensive strike on the day of Palestinian steadfastness. We pin our hopes on you to support and make the comprehensive strike a success. We warn some bus companies against the consequences of not abiding by the call for the strike, as this will make them liable to revolutionary punishment.

Brother doctors and pharmacists, you must be on emergency status to offer assistance to those of our kinfolk who are ill. The brother pharmacists must carry out their duties normally. The brother doctors must place the doctor badge in a way that can be clearly identified.

General warning: We would like to warn our people that walking in the streets will not be safe in view of the measures that will be made to make the comprehensive strike a success. We warn that viscous material will be poured on main and secondary streets and everywhere, in addition to the roadblocks and the strike groups that will be deployed throughout the occupied homeland.

Circular: The struggler and brothers members of the popular committees and the men of the uprising who are deployed in all the working locations should work to support and assist our people within the available means, particularly the needy families of our people. The strike groups and the popular uprising groups must completely abide by the working program, which is in their possession. Let us proceed united and loudly chant: Down with occupation; long live Palestine as a free and Arab country.

Signed: The Palestinian national forces in the occupied territories

Algeria

Benjedid Meets Ben Ali, Travels to Libya

LD111506 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] [Announcer] Today is the last day of the president's visit to Tunisia and at the same time the first day for a similar visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Our special envoy, Brahim Ziouaj, is covering this presidential tour for us:

[Ziouaj] In the Republican Palace in Carthage this morning President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN Party, and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Tunisian Republic and chairman of the Destourian Socialist Party, held another round of talks. These began with a private meeting before it was enlarged to include the Algerian and Tunisian delegations.

Much has been achieved in this important meeting between President Chadli Bendjedid and President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali. Bilateral relations are excellent, as President Chadli Bendjedid said during his statement made upon arrival at Carthage airport. At the Arab Maghreb level, the common conviction of the two leaders and the two people has given a new and strong impetus toward the achievement of the qualitative stage in the construction of Arab Maghreb union.

The treaty on fraternity and concord has laid a firm foundation for the construction of Arab Maghreb unity; the Tunis meeting between the two presidents, Chadli Bendjedid and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, has furthered the process by entering a qualitative and realistic stage.

This achievement has been made possible thanks to the wisdom of the leaders of the two fraternal countries who have always worked together and intensified their coordination to achieve what some saw as difficult and others thought was impossible.

A new glorious and historical page is being written today. In its clear lines one can read tranquility, security, peace, and a prosperous future not only for the Algerian and the Tunisian peoples but for all of the peoples of the Arab Maghreb region.

President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general for the FLN Party, and his accompanying delegation will leave for a friendly working visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah today, where he will have talks with the leader of the Libyan Revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. This visit is a part of the framework of intensifying consultations between the leaders of Arab Maghreb countries in order to consolidate bilateral relations and to build a united Arab Maghreb.

Much has been achieved between Algeria and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah so far: Relations between the two brotherly countries are excellent. There are identical views regarding the most important bilateral and international issues between the two leaderships and the two peoples. Bilateral cooperation between Algeria and Libya has witnessed a very important development, particularly since the meeting in I-N-Amenas between President Chadli Bendjedid and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. This very important development can be seen in the setting up of joint companies in order to achieve economic integration. Economic integration is still a cornerstone in the construction of unity, the unity of the Great Arab Maghreb.

Thus, the Great Arab Maghreb region has assumed control of its affairs. And at this moment it is writing pages that history will one day say were the beginning of the Arab nation and the true awakening of the rgeion's peoples to achieve prosperity, development, and strength.

This is Brahim Ziouaj from Tunis, goodbye for now.

Chad

Habre Discusses UDEAC Summit, Libya

AB111219 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Text] Before leaving Libreville, where he had attended the UDEAC [Customs and Economic Union of Central African States] summit, President Hissein Habre yesterday granted an interview to Gabonese radio and television. He answered questions pertaining to the extraordinary summit of the UDEAC heads of state, the measures that emerged from it, and their true range of impact in relation to the financial and monetary difficulties the zone is facing. The measures taken certainly do not constitute a panacea. Nevertheless, they will help to remedy the situation, the head of state asserted. He also answered questions on the situation of the Chad-Libya conflict and his expectations for the OAU ad hoc committee's summit scheduled for Dakar, Senegal, next month. We listen here to the president of the Republic:

[Begin recording] [Habre] First of all, I must repeat that Chad is looking for peace, and it is in this desire for peace that we have subscribed to and accepted the moves, all the recommendations and decisions, made by the OAU ad hoc committee chaired by His Excellency Omar Bongo, president of the Republic of Gabon, including the cease-fire and the deadline established in Lusaka. You know that Chad has been scrupulously observing the cease-fire. The same is true for its contributions to the work of the OAU ad hoc committee. However, we must note that our enemy, the Libya, does not have the same desire for peace. This explains their continued and repeated violations of the cease-fire—violations such as the Libya Air Force overflying Chadian territory on a quasi-daily basis, and in the attempted infiltrations of our country from Sudan. I recall that we have had to pursue a number of small groups within the confines of the Sudanese-Chadian border. These small groups, belonging to the Islamic Legion [words indistinct] entered through that eastern side.

Concerning its military presence in the north, Libya is not showing any respect for even the OAU ad hoc committee. On the contrary, it continues to strengthen its military position—(?both materiel and men)—to the maximum by recruiting mercenaries of all nationalities, particularly relying on the Arab countries. I must tell you that presently in the Aozou Strip, there are mercenaries from Syria, North Yemen, and South Yemen. There are also Palestinians, [words indistinct] Lebanese [words indistinct].

Nevertheless, at the same time the OAU ad hoc committee is holding discussions with much dynamism. The experts and their ministers are currently working hard in Libreville [words indistinct] will take place around 3 February in Dakar. We are, therefore, following with much interest the work of the ad hoc committee, and we ardently hope that our committee will be able to find a solution for the dispute between the two countries.

[Reporter] Mr President, talking especially about peace, are you prepared to meet with your Libyan counterpart, Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi? And if so, when?

[Habre] If we say that we favor peace [words indistinct] we need to be true to ourselves [words indistinct] we believe that one can [words indistinct] with weapons as one can [words indistinct] with dialogue. Consequently, we are not completely ruling out this way of looking for peace [words indistinct] we are further motivated by dialogue and for our part, we are prepared to meet (?the Libyan head of state anywhere, either in Lusaka, Libreville, or Dakar. [end recording]

New Consul General to Saudi Arabia Appointed

AB072136 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] The head of state this morning signed two decrees. The first one appoints Ginginar Ghettor director of operations of the cooperative of Chadian Transport Owners, while the second decree appoints Sal-ul Habib as consul general of Chad in Jeddah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Egypt

Cairo Reports 10 Jan Demonstrations in Rafah

NC111302 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Excerpts] According to reports received from the occupied territories, a state of extreme tension prevails over the Gaza Strip following the violent clashes that took place yesterday [10 January] during which the occupation forces made extensive use of tear gas and bullets killing or injuring more than 50 persons. [passage omitted]

Inhabitants of Al-Duhayshah camp near Bethlehem, using stones and sticks, clashed with the occupation forces, which had attempted to break into the camp. A number of soldiers were injured during this attempt. At the same time, both sectors of the town of Rafah were the scene of violent demonstrations. The town of Majdal Shams and nearby villages in the occupied Syrian Golan were also the scene of demonstrations of solidarity with the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Ghali Condemns Europe's Attitude Over Gaza

AU080812 Paris AFP in English 0407 GMT
8 Jan 88

[Text] Paris, Jan 8 (AFP)—Egypt's Foreign Minister Butrus Ghali on Thursday condemned "Europe's timorous attitude towards (Israeli) reprisals" against protesters in the Israeli-occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Talking on France's newly-privatised television channel TF1, Mr. Butrus said: "Europe has been through military occupation, Europe resisted.

"What is now going on in Palestine is the result of 20 years of military occupation and of a resistance by a new generation of Palestinians."

But he said there was no question of Egypt re-thinking its Camp David peace treaty with Israel.

He said: "We intend to respect the treaty, we believe that by maintaining contact with the Israeli Government we can play a role in trying to limit the negative consequences of Israeli policy in the occupied Palestinian territories."

AL-AHRAM Indignant at Shamir Autonomy Offer

NC110915 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT
11 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has expressed its indignation at the inhumanly repressive measures that the Israeli occupation authorities are taking in the West Bank and Gaza. The paper states that if Israel thinks it has succeeded in making the Palestinians reach the point of no return by using tanks to storm camps, then we tell Israel that, thanks to its coercion, the Palestinians have reached the point of accepting martyrdom to the last person, seeing as how they have apparently lost everything.

In an editorial today, AL-AHRAM expresses its regret over Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's suggestion at this particular time of negotiating with the Palestinians after ending the uprising—or after what he described as

Israel's restoration of order in the West Bank and Gaza—in order to establish autonomy, using the second part of the Camp David accords as a pretext. The paper points out that, despite the fact that this premise became irrelevant a long time ago and is no longer an issue, Shamir's renewed suggestion of the matter only indicates his derision of those he addresses. The paper describes this attempt as a flagrant and image-saving policy in the face of world-wide resolutions of condemnation. This call, the paper stresses, is in essence a return to the past.

AL-AHRAM states that Israel has not learned its past lessons. It persists in handling the Palestinian uprising as merely a large-scale riot and not an original and sweeping revolution. The Israelis are again making a misjudgment by thinking that once they put the situation under control, they can silence the Palestinian people for good. This, the paper says, is a myth and folly. Such situations have led in the past to the double defeat of other countries: first, before the world; and second, before their own peoples, with all the inherent humiliation and historic disgrace.

Al-Mahjub Returns From Iraq With Husayn Message

NC090639 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] The parliamentary delegation led by People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub returned to Cairo from Baghdad last night. During his 5-day stay in Iraq, Dr al-Mahjub met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, and handed him a message from President Husni Mubarak.

Following his arrival, Al-Mahjub said that he is carrying a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn for President Mubarak. He noted that it deals with the Arab situation in general. He also mentioned that the visit to Iraq was undertaken at the invitation of Iraq's National Assembly Speaker Sa'dun Hammadi.

The visit was the first to Iraq by an official delegation following the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Kuwaiti Finance Minister Departs Cairo 8 Jan

NC081610 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA)—Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi left Cairo this evening to return to Kuwait, following a 4-day visit to Egypt during which he met with President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti minister was seen off at the airport by Finance Minister Dr Muhammad al-Razzaz and Kuwait's ambassador to Egypt, 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Kandari.

Kuwaiti Paper Interviews Al-Baz on Issues

Part One on Arab Relations

JN051847 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 4 Jan 88 pp 8,9

[Part one of a two-part interview with Usamah al-Baz, adviser for political affairs to President Husni Mubarak and first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, by Muhammad Mustafa in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Mustafa] Tell me frankly, what is Egypt's stand on the results of the Amman summit, particularly regarding the failure to make a decision on Egypt's return to the Arab League?

[Al-Baz] We believe the resolutions adopted at the Amman summit are on the whole positive. At the summit a comprehensive Arab view of peace was drawn up—not just a view of peace as an objective but also a view of the means to achieve such an objective. The international peace conference was discussed at the Amman summit. The Amman summit resolutions are a tangible addition to the Fes summit resolutions and give new impetus, for they move the Fes summit resolutions further ahead.

These resolutions can have a positive effect if we succeed in using them in action, for a resolution in itself does not bring results unless action is taken on its basis. We believe the coming period is favorable for confronting the Israeli challenge because Israel is stalling and being negative. Failure to put forward a specific peace challenge to Israel will enable the extreme hardliners to come out on top. The resolution is successful in both its wording and its timing.

As for the resolution on the Arabs restoring full relations with Egypt, we believe what was achieved is a big step on the road to correcting Egypt's position within the Arab family. We believe the resumption of full bilateral relations was necessary and desirable, and will be very effective. As for the restoration of Egypt's membership in the Arab League, we do not believe what occurred was a rejection of Egypt's return. All that happened is that a decision on the matter has been deferred because many Arab leaders concluded that it may be easier and wiser to wait until the resumption of relations on the bilateral level has been completed. Some people believed that Egypt's return to the Arab League is more important and a higher priority. They argued that if Egypt returns to the Arab League it will have to undertake specific commitments whereas the resumption of bilateral relations does not bind Egypt to such commitments. However, such a view is mistaken because in any relationship between two parties it is natural for duties and rights to arise. Consequently, even the restoration of bilateral relations imposes specific commitments and obligations on each party. Such obligations do not mean that the parties are shackled. They mean that in its relations the state gives and takes—not only takes—and thus it contributes to collective action as a whole.

The summit made a wise decision in the right direction, and the proof is that it was a collective decision—although only Libya opposed the concensus. As for Hafiz al-Asad, he personally took part in drafting the resolution on Egypt's return.

The outcome was that there was an Arab concensus on the matter. As for the Arab League, it is only a matter of time.

[Mustafa] What has the restoration of diplomatic relations actually added to the relations that already existed between Egypt and its Arab sisters?

[Al-Baz] There were constant contacts between us and the Arab brothers on various levels. There was cooperation in numerous fields. The Arabs in both the East and the West believed Egypt remained and will continue to remain at the heart of Arab action and Arab commitment. However, the resumption of diplomatic relations adds another dimension: It adds legitimacy to those contacts and increases Egypt's ability to carry out its pan-Arab role in the way it wants. Therefore, we hope that in the coming period Arab action will be activated, thanks to the Amman summit resolution. Then we can expect an increase in bilateral cooperation and interaction on various levels, and a deepening of the sense of a common destiny.

[Mustafa] It is being said that some states that did not restore their relations are now holding contacts with Egypt to resume these relations?

[Al-Baz] Egypt absolutely has no objection to contacts with any Arab state regardless of the question of relations. It is merely the level and method of contacts that are affected if relations are restored or not. We are not talking within the framework of the restoration of relations but about rectifying the situation. The stands of the fraternal states that did not decide to resume relations with Egypt differ from state to state. For instance, with regard to Syria or Libya, the evidence is that at present these two states do not want to make such a step. We on our part do not want to burden any state or ask anything from it; rather, we want to leave it to make its own decision in the circumstances that suit it. When it decides to make such a step we will also have something to say.

[Mustafa] What about Tunisia and Algeria?

[Al-Baz] Egypt's relations with Tunisia and Algeria are good and contacts exist. However, we do not talk to this or that state about resuming relations because we do not want to embarass and burden anyone. We do not believe any state that wants to restore relations with Egypt is doing us a favor because—as I have said—any state that wants to restore relations with Egypt is gaining, adding to its credit and enhancing its ability for general Arab action. I believe the Algerian and Tunisian leaders now have a clear view of the matter, and there is a logical reason for relations to remain in their present state. All objective conditions indicate that the stand of these two states should not differ from the stands of the other Arab states that resumed relations.

[Mustafa] Reports say that there will be Egyptian-Syrian contacts soon if they have not already taken place. The reports also say that Libya is working to prevent such contacts. How true are these reports?

[Al-Baz] In principle, we do not object to holding contacts with any Arab party, regardless of the existence or depth of any disagreement. However, with respect to Syria in particular, there are no contacts between us and Syria, despite the numerous reports of meetings. All these reports are groundless. There have been no contacts because of the way the Syrian Government conducts its affairs with Egypt. The Syrians want Egypt to contact them on their terms. It is inconceivable within one family for one memebr to impose his conditions on an other. Contacts must take place without any conditions. Every party can then express its viewpoint, ask questions, and obtain answers. If any party has demands, it can submit them. We do not accept conditions from Syria or any other party.

With respect to Libya, Libya's stand is volatile. The Libyans tell many Arab brothers that they want a dialogue with Egypt without any preconditions if Egypt expresses its readiness to implement the results of such a dialogue. However, after saying this, Libya's actions contradict its statements. That's why Libya's unstable stand makes it difficult to deal with positively.

[Mustafa] Many are noting an exacerbation of political and military tension between Egypt and Libya. What is the reality?

[Al-Baz] First, from the Egyptian point of view there can be no military tension between us and any Arab country, including Libya, because Libya is part of our Arab homeland. There can be no enmity between us and the Libyan people that will reach the state of military operations affecting their security. As for the exacerbation of political tension, it is more often an escalation by Libya of its propaganda campaigns. The only political issue on which we can disagree is the stand toward the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty that is being raised by the brothers in Damascus and Tripoli. I would like to affirm here that we have nothing to hide in this respect. We are ready to discuss this issue in any bilateral or collective meeting. If the Libyan and Syrian commands have reservations on this issue, we have even greater reservations on the Syrian and Libyan policies toward the Gulf war, on the policies Damascus and Tripoli have adopted against the PLO, and even on their policies toward Arab solidarity as a whole. Should we create polarization in the Arab world and division among its ranks, or should we formulate a unified strategy to tackle the dangers that we face, such as the situation in Lebanon? We differ with Syria and Libya on this issue. Must we not work to settle Arab differences instead of having this or that party work to entrench these differences? We differ with Syria and Libya on their concepts of these issues. The reservations of the brothers in Syria and Libya on Egypt's relationship with Israel are all imaginary and hypothetical, and have not been substantiated. Our reservations on their policies toward the Gulf war, Lebanon, or the PLO are based on actual positions that have harmed the Arab stand and endangered Kuwait, Iraq, Bahrain, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and all the Gulf countries, not to mention endangering the entire Arab state of affairs. From this premise, our objections are based on actual situations and cases.

I would like to emphasize here that the Camp David problem should not be discussed now because it is a stage we have left behind. We are now at a new stage, that of the international conference to be convened in accordance with concepts on which we, the Syrians, Jordanians, and Palestinians, agree. Syria did not say that it objects to the international conference. On the contrary, it informs the parties with which it has contacts that it supports the internatioanl conference as called for by Egypt, King Husayn, and Yasir 'Arafat, an international conference that will play an effective role and that will be attended by the parties concerned, including the PLO, the two superpowers, and the other permanent UN Security Council memebrs. This means that there is no disagreement among the Arab parties directly concerned in this issue, including Syria, on the new bases for a settleemnt. These bases are acepted by the confrontation states and the other Arab countries. Therefore, it is not correct to bring up old topics.

[Mustafa] President Husni Mubarak will embark on a Gulf tour within the next few days. What are the objectives of this tour and the trends of Egyptian policy toward the countries that Mubarak will visit?

[Al-Baz] The president's meeting with his brothers the Arab leaders, particularly those of the Gulf states, is an expression of the ties of pure love and strong amity between the Arab people in Egypt and their brothers in these states. A deep feeling exists in Egypt and in the Egyptian leadership, in the person of President Mubarak, that each Arab Gulf state is an organ of the one body. We all stand in the same trench.

In his talks with the leaders, the president will discuss the situation in each state and the Gulf region in general. He will also explore their assessment of the situation, the developments in the war, and its possibilities as well as the possible success of peace efforts, particularly those exerted within the United Nations. President Mubarak will acquaint himself with the leaders' views on the Middle East issue, particularly the Palestinian cause. We realize that 1988 will not witness an agreement on convening an international conference, but it might witness preparations for the conference as well as moves by the concerned parties, even Israel itself. It is unrealistic to expect a change in the Israeli stand on the international conference or any other issue before the elections to be held in November. It is also unrealistic to imagine that elections will be held earlier. This means that we should exploit the time between now and the elections to affect the Israeli stand.

Work should also be done inside the Arab community, particularly since we now have a united stand vis-a-vis the general principles governing our moves. We should also agree on an Arab stand on the mechanism of the movement. We should exploit international activities and existing contacts between the two superpowers and the five permanent members of the Security Council, which are also concerned about the issue of peace and stability in the Middle East. The Gulf war now creates many fears. It has been proved false that some states are completely removed from the effects of the war, that their interests are guaranteed, that they can trade and deal with the warring countries, and that the warring parties can continue the war until they exhaust themselves without harming other countries' interests. There are dangers to these states now if tension increases between the East and West, between the United States and the USSR. The occurrence of such tension and its escalation, the possible interruption of oil supplies, threats to navigation, and the idea of continuing the war affect the interests of foreign countries.

The popular uprising, which took place in the occupied Arab territory in Palestine, has produced a new reality. Many countries believed that the Palestinian issue could be shelved or frozen. It has become clear to all, particularly the Israeli people, that this issue is pressing and should be tackled; otherwise, it will produce grave consequences.

Hence, the timing of President Mubarak's tour, which comes in the wake of the Amman summit resolutions, is natural after relations [with the Arab countries] have taken the sound and correct form that should have existed previously. Meetings on the highest levels are natural. Consultations should be undertaken with those leaders on concepts of how to implement the Amman resolutions on various issues.

[Mustafa] After the restoration of Egyptian-Arab relations, Egypt announced it will defend the Arab nation. How?

[Al-Baz] Egypt has a clear concept of its strategic objectives. When a state defines its objectives, it should take into consideration the major objective; that is, maintaining the country's security. Egyptian national security is based on a military theory that defines the surrounding dangers, how to confront them, and the necessary plans to face any emergency or development. Egyptian national security is also based on political, economic, cultural, and psychological theories.

In defining Egypt's national security, we will not be satisfied by looking at Egypt's national security alone. There are two spheres—Egypt's national security, as Egypt is a state which has a definite border, and Arab national security, because we consider ourselves part of the Arab nation. The strategic situation makes our view of Egypt's national security fully linked with the thinking of Arab national security. We cannot protect our security if the Arab countries, particularly those surrounding us, are threatened.

We believe that events in the Gulf raise—in one of its dimensions—the issue of maintaining Egyptian national security. If a large-scale aggression is carried out against an Arab country by a non-Arab country, Egyptian national security will be threatened. Out of this view, we consider our national security part of Arab national security. This depends on pinpointing the dangers threatening this region and how to confront them. Regional countries should cooperate. This cooperation should be based on either the Collective Defense Pact, which was signed into existence in 1951—the parties can agree on how to impalement it—or on bilateral cooperation, which could be more developed than this pact.

From this concept, we say that Egypt has a special defense responsibility because it is the largest Arab country, has the strongest army, and is the most advanced country in military technique. However, we should not play this role alone. There should be cooperation among all parties within this framework. Before this, there should a desire by all parties to participate along with an understanding on this strategic line and coordination to confront the dangers. If we reach such formulas, we can play a major role in this regard.

[Mustafa] In view of this, if an Arab country is exposed to danger, will Egypt fight beside it?

[Al-Baz] Two considerations will govern this issue. The first is a general political consideration—we consider ourselves part of the Arab nation. Also there is the legal consideration of the Collective Arab Defense Pact between us and the Arab countries. This means that if any Arab country is attacked, Egypt has the right to support it by all means, including the use of armed force, to repulse the aggression. Nothing will restrict Egypt's freedom in this regard. Neither the peace treaty with Israel nor any other treaty can prevent Egypt from playing that role. This does not mean that this right will be used automatically. All circumstances should be studied. We should also determine whether the Arab side will benefit from our intervention, whether such intervention is appropriate both militarily and strategically, and what kind of assistance will be extended. For example, when the Israeli forces entered southern Lebanon, Syria should have supported Lebanon because it has a joint border with it and there were approximately 35,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon, some of them in Al-Biqa' in particular, but Syria did not extend any military assistance to Lebanon under the Collective Arab Defense Pact. Why did it not intervene? Perhaps because it thought the Israeli forces in Lebanon would withdraw soon, or it believed that it was difficult to intervene for some reason. I believe that the implementation of the Collective Arab Defense Pact requires efforts and coordination to achieve its goals. For example, in 1973, some Arab armies sent forces to the Syrian front. These forces were not effective because they were not part of the plan of movement and defense. They did not know their role in the battle, and they had no air support. We always say that if we are serious in drawing up a sound Arab security plan, we should consider these issues and consult in advance to achieve a coordination not affected by any change in political positions, because this issue should be above politics, interests, and differences of opinion. Why are we trying to discover Egypt's commitment to the provisions of the defense pact as if this commitment were a theory? Following his election to a second term on 12 October, the president delivered a comprehensive speech announcing that Egypt abides by the Collective Arab Defense Pact and the Arab League Charter more than any other Arab country. Egypt has abided by them over the past 6 years.

[Mustafa] We have a specific question. The Arabian Gulf war is going on, and Iran is threatening Kuwait daily. Will Egypt stand beside Kuwait militarily?

[Al-Baz] Egypt has announced on several occasions that it will stand beside Kuwait and other Arab countries to repulse any aggression. This is a principle. We cannot tolerate any aggression against any Arab country and its territory, interests, and the security of its citizens because we view the security of these countries as part of our security and our security as part of theirs. We also believe there is a fateful interlink in interests, foremost of which is the security interest. How can we interpret this into a reality? In other words, how can we turn it from a slogan into a reality? First: We have to explore the concerned Arab country's vision and needs as well as its ideas about how it will benefit from other countries. Proceeding from this principle, we do not view any positive step as an act of assistance, but as an act of solidarity as if we are defending Egyptian land and interests as well as the security of any Egyptian citizens and their right to live in peace. We will not feel safe if our brothers in the Arabian Gulf believe their security is being threatened and they cannot confront future threats.

[Mustafa] There is talk about the formation of an Egyptian-Jordanian joint rapid deployment force to cooperate with Kuwait. What is your view?

[Al-Baz] When we discussed with officials in Kuwait the strategic, military, and security situation in the area as a whole, it was clear that so far Kuwait has no need to call for the assistance of any Arab forces from outside Kuwait, as the Kuwaiti defense forces have the situation under control. We were not told that Kuwait will be in need of additional military forces now or in the forseeable future. No specific proposal was mentioned on the dispatch of a rapid deployment force or an Egyptian-Jordanian joint force.

There is an agreement between us and Jordan on joining together in raising the military capabilities of our two countries. We hold joint exercises and maneuvers, and coordinate on many matters. We are pleased to expand the scope of such coordination and to have other Arab states join us, for it will enhance our defense capabilities and diminish our need for foreign expertise. The forces of each country will be capable of moving in various areas.

[Mustafa] The question of Egyptian prisoners in Iran has been raised. Estimates of their number vary. Where does the matter stand?

[Al-Baz] We insist that any Egyptian in Egypt or abroad be protected in accordance with international law and international conventions.

Iran holds two groups of Egyptians: The first are civilians who were living in certain areas. They were not armed and did not carry out any actions. When Iran invaded that territory it captured those who were living on it and considered them prisoners. Indeed, the Iranians sometimes said they were spies, but that is a form of propagandist exaggeration by Iran aimed at the entire Arab side. The second group of Egyptian prisoners held by Iran are Egyptian volunteers or conscripts in the Iraqi forces who are fighting in defense of Iraqi territory, which is part of our land. When they were captured, Iran should have—according to international conventions—treated them as prisoners of war and have notified the Red Cross that it holds them. However, the Iranians shirk their legal responsibilities. They try to depict all these prisoners as spies or mercenaries. We emphasize there is not a single Egyptian fighting for a fee. We have carried out several indirect contacts with Iran through the Red Cross and other third parties, and we have informed Iran that we view the question of Egyptian prisoners very seriously because we cannot at all ignore any harm that befalls any Egyptian.

[Mustafa] In view of developments in the Gulf war, do you see any possibility for a hot confrontation among the big powers in the region?

[Al-Baz] I do not believe the situation in the Gulf can develop into a confrontation between the big powers, because these powers are now in a stage of settlement and calm. I also believe the present stage is one of the most important in their relations since Yalta after World War II, which was followed by the cold war and the great nuclear stockpile. Consequently, the present stage is an important and basic leap. In the present stage, it is unlikely that the big powers will become involved in confrontations or regional conflicts, particularly in the Gulf. There is no basic conflict of interest that compels one party to confront the other and resort to the use of force. The Soviet Union does not believe this to be an issue that requires it to intervene and confront the United States, nor does the United States believe it to be an issue which requires intervention and confrontation with the Soviets, regardless of whether such a confrontation is direct or indirect, all-out or limited. There are numerous examples that demonstrate the development of regional conflicts into a confrontation between the superpowers is not that easy. Even in Afghanistan, where there are about 100,000 Soviet soldiers and where there is undeniable U.S. assistance to the Afghan mujahidin, there has not been a confrontation. It appears that there will soon be agreement over the Afghan problem providing for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan in 12 months and the establishment of a coalition government in Afghanistan not hostile to the Soviet Union, a government that prevents the emergence of movements seeking revenge from among the mujahidin and the supporters of the present regime.

[Mustafa] Is President Mubarak's visit to the United States aimed at activating the international conference?

[Al-Baz] We should emphasize the U.S. responsibility in ending the Gulf war, given the negative U.S. stands over the past 4 years in terms of Irangate and other issues. All these issues emphasize the special U.S. reponsibility to exert more efforts than other powers in this regard. The same thing applies to the Palestinian problem. The United States has to be reminded all the time that it should act and not be an arena for Israeli pressure. There is always an Israeli official or someone who speaks in the name of Israel in the U.S. community or even in the U.S. Administration itself on all levels. There should be an influential Arab presence to give a correct, sound picture.

[Mustafa] What about Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid's visit to Moscow? Is it within the same framework?

[Al-Baz] Actually, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid's visit is not within the same framework. It is within the framework of exchanging visits between Egypt and the USSR as agreed by the two countries. It is an oportunity to continue dialogue on many issues, such as the Gulf war, the Middle East problem, the international conference, and Afghanistan.

[Mustafa] As an expert on Palestinian affairs, do you think that a Palestinian government-in-exile will bring a solution to the Palestinian problem?

[Al-Baz] The government-in-exile was an Egyptian proposal, and I would like to add that we do not impose proposals on the Palestinians or monopolize the Palestinian card. However, Egypt has always backed the Palestinian position. That is why we presented this proposal. A Palestinian government will have greater power to deal with the outside world. For instance, the external relations minister of France, who sympathizes with the Palestinian cause, finds it difficult to meet with a senior PLO official because he represents an organization. Had this official been a foreign minister of a goivernment-in-exile, it would be very easy for the French minister to meet him. Moreover, the government will be [held] responsible before the outside world and the Palestinian movement will be more disciplined. An example to be recalled is the Algerian government-in-exile.

[Mustafa] Yasir 'Arafat will visit Egypt in January. What are the aims of this visit? Is it connected with Mubarak's visit to the United States?

[Al-Baz] The date of 'Arafat's visit to Cairo has not been fixed yet. However, 'Arafat expressed a desire to visit Cairo, and President Mubarak told him that Egypt is his homeland and he can visit it. There is no direct connection between this visit and the president's visit to the United States. This means that the president will not convey any definite ideas from 'Arafat to the United States. However, it is useful that any initiative by a principal Arab state like Egypt should include contributions by several other Arab parties. This is because President Mubarak does not only speak in Egypt's name. While it is true that Egypt primarily expresses its own views, it also expresses a joint Arab position as much as possible and whenver such a position exists.

Therefore, the president was careful to appraoch the Gulf states first because we are interested in the Gulf problem as though it were an Egyptian problem. When the president talks to President Reagan and other U.S. officials, the Gulf war and how to end it as soon as possible will be at the top of the agenda of his talks.

Therefore, it is useful for the president to meet with the Gulf leaders so he can be certain that he will express the Arab views, even in terms of detail. Similarly, there is continuous coordination between Egypt and Jordan, and between Egypt and the PLO leadership. It will also be useful for the president to meet with Yasir 'Arafat before making his trip.

[Mustafa] What is the status of the Middle East issue, now that the U.S. presidential elections are at our doorstep?

[Al-Baz] It is very important that during the U.S. election campaigns the greatest number possible of U.S. officials know about the Arab standpoint to confront one-upsmanship during the campaigns. Luckily, the Middle East problem is not a controversial issue in the elections, such as the internal situation, the state of the economy, the budget deficit, the balance of trade, and U.S.-USSR relations after signing the treaty. Controversial issues might also include Nicaragua and Afghanistan. The Middle East problem will not be a hot issue. It is not in the interest of the Arabs to transform the Middle East issues, such as the Palestinian problem, the Lebanese problem, or the Gulf war, into controversial questions in the U.S. elections. Certainly the result will not be in the Arabs' favor because the other side will benefit from this. This does not mean that we should neglect these issues, because the Americans will not take notice of our problems if they remain stagnant. We should always remind them of these issues and raise our problems all the time provided they are not transformed into controversial issues.

[Mustafa] Where has the international peace conference gotten to in light of U.S. reservations and Israeli intransigence?

[Al-Baz] It is incorrect to determine our stands on the basis of those of other parties. Doing so makes Egyptian policy captive to a foreign decision. For example, if we say that Israel's intrasigence will prevent the convocation of the conference, it gives Israel the right to determine the course of movement. This is unacceptable to us, coming either from Israel or the United States. As for Israel's intrasigent stand, I think it is liable to change because a large number of the Israelis have begun to feel that it is impossible for the current situation to continue. In the past, the feeling was that Israel could press ahead with its policy of occupation, building settlements, forcing the largest number of Arabs to leave, and reducing job opportunities for them. This was to enable Israel to swallow the West Bank and, more specifically, the Gaza Strip. Many Israelis now believe that this idea is hard to carry out. We must acknowledge that there is a peace movement in Israel, which is not confined to the Peace Now Movement. There are many sectors in other movements calling for peace. Some Israelis call for peace out of fear of the demographic factor. Also, some Israelis believe that, with all the defects in relations between Israel and Egypt, this is still better than a constant state of war. In the same line, we must not forget a clear fact: Despite immigration waves into Israel, the number of Israelis who emigrated from Israel remains larger from those who arrived. It is enough to know that Israel had 3,000 prominent scientisits, among whom 270 emigrated last year alone. Therefore, Israel has a brain drain. All these indications confirm that Israel will have to review its calculations if it insists on staying in the region as a Jewish state. Israel must know that there is an olive branch extended to it and that it cannot be extended forever. This is because the hand carrying the olive branch may come to believe that it is safer for it to use a rifle. The Israeli repression itself may make this branch fall and in its place bring about canon muzzles. Therefore, we say that there is a historic opportunity for Israel to establish relations with the Arabs on the basis of a peace that may become possible in the future.

I believe that there is a challenge facing the Israeli people in the upcoming elections: the challenge of peace or war.

[Mustafa] In your opinion, what is the most appropriate framework for achieving peace between the Palestinian and Israel?

[Al-Baz] There must be an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza to be replaced by a Palestinian entity within a confederation with Jordan. This entity can also join any future Arab unionist move. However, there is special relationship between Jordan and Palestine that must not be encroached upon. On this basis, Israel must withdraw, and there must be security arrangements for the two sides. The Palestinian people must be given the right to self-determination because this is a natural right. In addition, the Israelis must stop thinking that their rights override Arab rights. This is untrue. Arab rights are identical to Israeli rights. If Israel thinks otherwise, the Arabs will then have the right to think that their rights override those of the Israelis because they are larger in number, and therefore, stronger. If the Israelis have the right to establish a state, the Palestinians have also the right to establish a state. Israel does not have the right to think that it can defend its security by expansion. This concept has been struck down twice: once in 1973 and again in 1982 when the settlements [in Sinai] were dismantled, although the Israelis beleived that the settlements were part of their historical land. We saw what happened in Yamit. A large number of Israelis seriously believed that Israel would not withdraw. Dayan told me once: I bet that neither Begin nor anyone else can withdraw 10-14 km from a border, and if he says otherwise, it is a maneuver. Moreover, the Israelis asked to keep the settlers inside the territories regained by Egypt. All this indicates that Camp David was a necessary stage for breaking the stalemate produced by the international situation. We were certain that the situation would have remained as it was had we not broken that stalemate.

[Mustafa] How does Egypt view the Palestinian people's recent uprising in the occupied territories?

[Al-Baz] This uprising has stemmed from the conscience of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. It is also a purely domestic affair. It was not caused by any outside interference, but was a spontaneous and natural reaction to Israel's policy, which does not protect the Arab citizens' common rights and personal property. In addition to this, Israeli officials affirm that this situation will continue without any change. All this has caused the explosion. This is natural. If this uprising had not occured, we would have been surprised. The Palestinian people and any other people have the right to resist occupation. During the uprising, no single Palestinian bullet was fired. This is an important point. Only children threw stones and received bullets in return. This fact will affect Israel's relations with other countries, the international community's position, and the conscience of the Israeli people. As a result, a number of Israeli soldiers refused to serve in the occupied territories. This phenomenon exists, although it is still limited. These soldiers said they will refuse to kill innocent children and woman.

Any attempts by Israel and its supporters to distort the nature of this uprising as an act of violence that should be confronted with violence have failed. For example, Morris Abram, a leader of the Jewish movement in the United States, claims that Israel is resisting guerilla warfare, and not ordinary demonstrations. By this, he is trying to belittle the intelligence of the American people, who believe that Israel will be disgraced now and in the future because a heavily armed state has used live ammunition to repress people expressing their views, a right recognized by international law. We cannot deny the Palestinian people the right to resist. The blood of the martyrs there should be used to expose Israel at the international level because it acts like the South African Government, which also confronts demonstrations with bullets. We should also exploit what has happend to convince more Israelis that the current situation cannot go on unchanged. The Palestinian people will neither accept the occupation, nor will the Jews' conscience allow the Israelis to be a group of butchers.

[Mustafa] What is Egypt's position on this uprising?

[Al-Baz] We voiced our strong rejection of this behavior during our contacts with the Israeli Government, the United Nations, and the United States. From the beginning, we tried to draw Israel's attention to the seriousness of the situation. Israel tried to send a senior official to Egypt to brief us on the sitaution but we refused to receive him. We have been in constant touch with the leaders of the Palestinian groupings in the occupied territories. We also know what is happening there. We have repeatedly denounced this. We protested to Israel twice in 3 days, and we played an active role in the UN Security Council to get it to issue a resolution condemning Israel. President Mubarak sent an urgent messge to President Reagan asking him not to use the veto against the resolution and drew his attention to the seriousness of using it.

[Mustafa] Some Israeli sources have voiced their fear that Egypt may downgrade its diplomatic relations with Israel. Does Egypt intend to take such a step?

[Al-Baz] Our recent steps are more important than downgrading diplomatic relations. Our objective should be clear. We want to prevent Israel from taking such actions in the future in the interest of the Palestinian people and of peace. How can we achieve this? Let us assume we have no relations with Israel and we need to make contact with it over the situation. How can I guanrantee that a third party will be a good communicator? We use our relations with Israel to pressure and influence the Israeli Government. Downgrading diplomatic relations would have been useful if we had wanted to acquaint the Israeli people and officials with our position, but our position is already know to the Palestinians and the Israelis on all levels.

[Mustafa] Is it correct that the Israeli ambassador in Cairo has declared his desire to return to his country after he felt the escalation in Egyptian resentment toward Israel?

[Al-Baz] We are not interested in the reason. What we know is that he requested that his services be terminated. He said that his personal circumstnaces do not allow him to continue. However, Israel must know full well that it cannot seek the amity and friendship of the Egyptian people at a time when it threatens other Arab people. The path of friendship to the Egyptian people is for Israel to ask for the amity and friendship of the Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese peoples as well as all the other Arab peoples.

[Mustafa] Israel announced its rejection of any reconciliation regarding the Tabah dispute, affirming the strength of its stand in this issue. Where has arbitration in the conflict reached?

[Al-Baz] Israel knows that its stand on the issue is weak. It is not secret that four Israeli lawyers, to whom the Israeli Government tried to assign the case, apologized because they know the weakness of the Israeli stand. The opposite situation is happening in Egypt. Senior Egyptian officials vied with one another in this regard. This emphasizes our stand and right. If Israel agrees that this strip of land—whose length does not exceed 1 km and 20 meters—is part of Egyptian territory and that it is solely under Egyptian sovereignty, then an agreement can be reached. If it does not want to do so and wants arbitration, we will also accept arbitration.

[Mustafa] It was also said that Egypt rejected U.S. proposals in this respect.

[Al-Baz] There were no clear-cut U.S. proposals. There were always U.S. ideas, which could benefit the two sides in a reconciliatory settlement, that is a settlement outside the framework fo arbitration. The Americans presented some ideas in this respect based on accepting that this piece of land is part of Egyptian territory and should be under Egypt's sovereignty.

[Mustafa] It is reiterated that the Egyptian-Sudanese joint committee has not yet reached agreement on suspended issues. What is the truth, and where are relations between the two countries going?

[Al-Baz] The relationship with Sudan cannot be affected negatively because it is very special. Rarely will you find such relations between two countries and peoples. The whole matter is that the joint committees at the ministerial or technical levels can have different views on some matters. This matter could happen even in one country as a result of the absence of a clear concept on the part of this or that party with regard to the Collective Defense Pact, integration, and fraternity. There is no friction in the relationship between the two countries. We always try to come out with a unified stand. The stage through which we are passing is one of stability and consolidating concepts. The Sudanese brothers should define their stands in a firm and specific way so that the matter will not become unsteady. I would like to affirm that our relations with Sudan or any other Arab country are governed by the principle of equality.

[Mustafa] By virtue of your position close to President Mubarak, what is your assessment of his characteristics as a person and leader?

[Al-Baz] Being close to President Muabrak, I was able to know his way of thinking and method of action when he assumed office from the time that he was a vice president. I can affirm that President Mubarak is very serious and does not make light of matters at all. He is objective; he does not judge things in light of his feelings toward the persons involved in a matter. Personal relations to him are one thing, and public issues are something else. In addition to this, President Mubarak is good at planning, taking everything into account. He does not like random or emotional moves. He does not make a decision in light of provocation or to gain popularity, support, or transient benefit. These qualities were entrenched and deeply rooted by the numerous military and political posts that he occupied.

Part Two on Camp David Accords

JN062000 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
5 Jan 88 p 9

[Part two of a two-part interview with Usamah al-Baz, adviser for political affairs to President Husni Mubarak and first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, by Muhammad Mustafa in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Mustafa] Ten years later, and after sentiments have calmed down, why did the Camp David accords take place?

[Al-Baz] First, both Egypt and Israel believed that the perpetuation of the state of affairs existing at the time was not in anybody's interest. Second, all the parties became convinced that no solution could be imposed from outside; neither the UN Security Council nor the two superpowers, nor Israel or Egypt can impose a solution from outside. This means that the solution should inevitably be a negotiated one. Syria agreed to this concept when it accepted UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and agreed to attend the Geneva conference. When Syria agreed to attend the Geneva conference, it did not agree to go there to prepare for war but to achieve peace with Israel. Syria's disagreement with Israel was that Israel neither agrees to peace conditions nor proposes sound conditions for peace. Then, the disagreement was on the peace conditions, not the principle of peace. Neither Syria nor any other country said they did not want peace. That's why we expected matters at least to reach the stage of beginning negotiations. However, the international state of affairs, the Arab situation, and the frame of mind that prevailed in Israel prevented the resumption of the Geneva conference. Only one session was held within the framework of this conference, the one held on 25 December 1973. From that time until October 1977, we did our best to convene the conference. We spent 4 years making contacts. Sometimes, a tripartite coordination took place—an Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian coordination; at other times it was a quadripartite coordination—an Egyptian-Syrian-Jordanian-Palestinian coordination. Desperate attempts were made to resume the Geneva conference but all to no avail.

In addition to this, the two superpowers issued a joint communique on 1 October 1977 in which they agreed to invigorate the peace process. Several procedural and other rules were discussed, but 3 days later Israel brought pressure to bear on the Untied States and made it withdraw from this agreement, which was then replaced by the U.S.-Israeli working paper. No reactivation of the peace process took place. Seeing this, Egypt became convinced that unless we did something, the state of affairs would remain as it was, perpetuating the Israeli occupation of Arab territories as long as this occupation was not threatened. The Arab countries used to believe that Israel's military power was increasing, that Israel was protected by the United States, and that if they wanted to do something they must devote a greater part of their potentialities, carry out further military coordination, and fight battles. And what would be the purpose for doing all this? To regain Sinai. Well, we succeeded in regaining it. We can also regain the Golan Heights, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. I believe that the recent uprising has confirmed to the Isrelis and to others that the cause is still alive and requires a solution. It even poses a threat to Israel itself. Unless the Palestinian cause is settled in the not too distant future, the threat it will pose to Israel will be greater than that to any Arab country. Why is this so? Let us assume that Israeli occupation of the Arab territories continues and Israel persists in oppressing the owners of the land. What will happen? The number of Palestinians in the occupied territories and Israel proper will by far exceed the number of Jews 25 years from now. Israel will then have two options: Either it will give up the Zionist dream of having a state for the Jews where there will be no place for non-Jewish groups, or try to reduce the number of these non-Jewish groups by forcing the Arabs to leave the country. If this takes place, Israel will bring disaster to Judaism because it will make the Jews become butchers of other people. The Jews will become killers, a group that persecutes other people, which will undermine Judaism from within. Therefore, Israel has one option only, that of accepting peace with the Arabs. Peace with the Arabs implicitly means peace with the Palestinians.

[Mustafa] But to what extent have the Camp David accords succeeded in realizing peace?

[Al-Baz] We must place the Camp David issue in its proper context. A discussion of Camp David can be divided into two parts: the Camp David accords and the so-called Camp David policy.

Two agreements were signed at Camp David. The first dealt with a framework for an approach toward comprehensive peace and was called a framework for comprehensive peace in the Middle East. It was just a general framework for peace that stipulated some of the principles governing the Egyptian-Israeli relations, and some bases that might govern moves concerning the Palestinian issue. Egypt and Israel signed a peace treaty in March 1979 as a prelude to a comprehensive peace agreement. The second part of the peace framework dealt with the Palestinian problem. We held bitter negotiations with Israel aimed at fixing a transitional period and a transitional rule in the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. This was to climax in allowing the Palestinian people to have self-determination.

After holding 26 sessions, we found that negotiations with Israel were futile. We strongly rejected Israel's intransigent attitude, upheld Palestinian rights, and refused to sign an agreement. We could have easily reached such agreement. We even refused to sign a declaration of principles to this effect. Our rejection was based on two reasons: 1) That what the declaration might stipulate would not have been sufficient or decisive in terms of protecting Palestinian rights; and 2) that President Mubarak made it very clear we could not reach a settlement to the Palestinian problem in the absence of the Palestinian people, that our role is to take part and be at the side of the Palestinians. If the Palestinian people chose to accept this settlement we would support them, and if they did not, they would be free to do so because it is their problem. We would not impose on them any concept or proposal. We might make proposals to the Palestinian people, but in facing their adversaries we are with them. Therefore, we refused to sign the declaration of principles.

I may be disclosing a secret when I say that Israel threatened not to complete its withdrawal from Sinai if we did not sign this declaration. Yet, Egypt insisted on its position. The president said: I will not sign anything under threats. I will not sign a declaration of principle or even a press statement. If they want we can sit and talk and try to reach something that could be presented to the Palestinian people and their representative, the PLO, so that they can agree to negotiate on its basis.

Israel then enacted a law annexing East Jerusalem. It had already annexed the Golan Heights. Therefore, we regarded this as a violation of the letter and spirit of the comprehensive peace agreement with Israel and halted the negotiations.

Issues developed later and we informed both Israel and the United States that the peace framework signed at Camp David was no longer appropriate for continuing negotiations over the Palestinian issue. Other mechanisms also appeared, such as the international conference, a UN Security Council resolution to this effect, and the support various countries extended to this idea. Even the United States came up with new proposals in the form of President Reagan's intitiative. This means that we now have new factors. This means that the part related to the Palestinian problem within the Camp David peace framework has been replaced by a new collection of documents and mechanisms, including the resolutions of the recent Amman summit, the Fes summit resolutions, and the UN resolutions that were issued to define the Palestinian people's rights, and so on.

[Mustafa] So, talking about Camp David is talking about the past?

[Al-Baz] Yes, it was a stage that has ended. If any party has reservations about the Egyptian peace treaty, such reservations must not include the issue of the liberation of Egyptian territory. No Arab can say that he objects to the liberation of Sinai, for whose sake we made great sacrifices and paid precious blood. This was through a war of liberation during which we managed to strike at Israeli arrogance, the concept of superiority, and the Israeli security principle. After we destroyed the Bar-Lev line within hours, the Egyptian forces crossed the Suez Canal, and the Air Force carried out its largest confrontation since the establishment of the State of Israel. These actions are what made Israel review its calculations and agree to withdraw completely from Sinai, including the settlements. This decision was very important because we believe that what was acheived here on the Egyptian front is applicable to other fronts, regardless of attempts to make the situation here look different.

As for the other part concerning the existence of certain security arrangements in Sinai and some restrictions on the forces' locations, volume, and armament, this should not bother anybody because the Egyptian forces currently in Sinai are larger and stronger than the ones stationed there before 1967. Therefore, Egypt's military situation in Sinai has improved. I reaffirm that Egypt made it completely clear in the Camp David accords that it does not at all accept a separate peace. We are moving on the basis that we are the locomotive pulling other cars. We all must move together. This was a commitment signed by Israel. This is the first time Israel has committed itself to a complete peace process.

The second point that must be explained is that Egypt was not bound by any commitment. Signing this treaty does not impose on it any conditions undermining its status in the Arab world or its commitments toward its Arab brothers. The treaty is an external factor that does not affect our Arab commitments and relations with the Arab world.

[Mustafa] Some are talking about what they call the priority of commitments, saying that Egypt accepted the peace treaty on the basis that its commitments stemming from the peace treaty with Israel have priority over its Arab commitments. What do you think?

[Al-Baz] This talk is baseless. Those who say that Egypt's commitments toward Israel have priority over its Arab commitments are either illiterate or shameless. What happened is that at a certain stage in the negotiations Israel sought to introduce this idea into its relations with Egypt and talked about what it called the priority of commitments. It reached the extent of convincing the United States of this. In the first draft of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty prepared by the U.S. delegation and presented to us on 11 October 1978, there was a clause in Article 2 on the priority of commitments. It said: The two parties agree that their commitments stemming from this treaty override any previous international commitments or reservations if they are not in line with the provisions of the treaty. These commitments shall have priority over any international provisions. We completely rejected this draft. We found in it a good opportunity to explain that commitments stemming from this treaty have no priority over any of Egypt's other commitments, because this would base our international relations on a treaty with a single state. This is unacceptable because we have relations with the big powers as well as Arab, African, and nonaligned states. We also have relations with states during special situations regarding Egyptian strategic security in particular, and so on.

Hence, I cannot build my relationship with any state on the basis of my relationship with another state, particularly if this state is Israel. Israel was the last state with which we established relations and these relations are still based on incomplete assumptions. It is illogical that Egypt, which is the largest Arab country, would let its relations with Israel govern its relations with the Arab countries. We explained this to the U.S. side from both the legal and political viewpoints. We also explained it to the Israelis and said we would not acccept that text even if the peace treaty was not signed.

At that time I went to Cairo for consultations and President Mubarak was a vice president. He was supervising the progress of negotiations within the ministerial committee in Cairo. I submitted a report to that committee on what had happened. I said we rejected the text of the priority of obligations and notified the United States and Israel of that. Following a careful 3-day legal and political study, Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak decided not to accept that text even if the treaty was not signed, and he obtained President al-Sadat's approval. I then left for the United States to inform them of the situation.

[Mustafa] What was the Egyptian [as published] reaction to that?

[Al-Baz] The text was omitted and thus the second article was canceled. Moreover, we seized the opportunity to obtain U.S. assurance that this concept no longer existed. At noon on Tuesday, 13 May 1979, President Carter presented us with an explanatory memorandum approved by all sides. That memorandum said it had been agreed that neither side should claim that the treaty had precedence over any other treaty or that its obligations canceled or rose above other obligations.

Accordingly, we obtained a clear interpretation against any Israeli allegation in this regard. We were not satisfied with this, but asked the United States, in its capacity as our partner, for a full clarification that this treaty would not interfere with our right to engage in individual or collective self-defense against any country or to apply the Collective Arab Defense Pact.

[Mustafa] It was stated that the treaty contained secret articles. What do you say to this?

[Al-Baz] There are no such articles. I would like to explain that one of the advantages of dealing with the United States and Israel is that there could be no secrets. At present there are no secrets in the world. Let the one who claims there is a secret article bring it up. Before signing the treaty we obtained a clear U.S. interpretation that Egypt is entitled to apply the provisions of the Collective Arab Defense Pact, as these provisions are based on Article 51 of the UN Charter which gives every country the right to individual and collective legitimate defense. Accordingly, no state can forfeit this right. Egypt emphasized that it would not allow anyone to undermine its legitimate right to defend not only itself but also its sisterly Arab states. We communicated this to all. The United States immediately withdrew its proposal and Israel stopped talking about the priority of obligations. Now some Arab brothers are trying to revive this old, dead subject by talking about the priority of obligations. The priority of obligations was merely an idea that was proposed and which Egypt rejected on 11 October 1978. How could the Arabs revive it after the Israelis had dropped it? How could the Arabs revive it after 10 years? Such revival stems from either ignorance or falsehood of someone who cannot read or who is not ashamed because the documents refute these claims. If any Arab side has any suspicions, reservations, or fears, let it present them to us. We state that if there are any constraints on us we would not hesitate to make them known, because the time will certainly come when we should face them. We say there are no constraints and Egypt is absolutely free to apply the Collective Defense Pact if it deems this is in the interest of the Arabs and pan-Arab security as a whole from the regional Egyptian or pan-Arab perspective.

[Mustafa] It was reported that talks to sign the peace treaty stopped for a while due to the adamant stand of tough negotiator Dr Usamah al-Baz, and that the U.S. Administration and Israel complained about this tough stand. Can you shed light on that stage now that 10 years have elapsed?

[Al-Baz] It is wrong to think that Egypt's stand in significant negotiations like the peace negotiations is determined by the concept or negotiating method of a certain person, be it me or any other person. What happened during negotiations was that we first met as a delegation and then faced the Israeli and U.S. delegations to formulate a certain concept of what was submitted. We would then present that concept to the political leadership. A ministerial committee comprised of some ministers and men of law reviewed what was reached, and their work was then reviewed by the vice president, who was at the time Husni Mubarak. A decision would finally be made with President al-Sadat's approval. For truth to prevail, I would like to state that Al-Sadat endorsed all the stands we adopted. Al-Sadat never told us not to insist on a certain position. He gave us general instructions. He did not go into details and he gave us the freedom of movement. Once former Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil objected to the course of negotiations because he believed the United States retreated before Israel and accepted Israeli pressures. He protested against the U.S. stand rather than differing with Al-Sadat. He believed this stand might serve the Egyptian negotiator, and Al-Sadat himself used this policy with the United States.

[Mustafa] It was reported that you were behind the obstruction of negotiations.

[Al-Baz] I do not think this is correct. Negotiators usually differ over the method of negotiations. The Israelis were accustomed to being indulged by Western countries. Whenever they made a proposition they found a listening ear. They were not accustomed to a strong and firm opposition of their views, especially if these views were ridiculous, absurd, and contrary to laws—such as their idea about the priority of obligations. We reject such things, but how do we express that? If we express such views weakly and shyly they will not usually find listening ears because the Israelis only understand firm language. The negotiator should proceed from the position of strength and logic. He should be familiar with the subject, and capable of expressing his view and gaining his country's support for it. This is what we felt. We had extremely fierce and harsh sessions with them during which they heard from us that which they had never heard before, even from the big powers, in terms of style or content. As a result of this, the Egyptian stand could be interpreted as flexible and ammenable to give and take. The one who knows the rules of negotiations finds that the behavior of states vary. For instance, the Americans and the West European countries in general believe that negotiations are a chain of reciprocal concessions. They do not consider negotiations as a process based on certain rules. In contrast, the Eastern bloc states do not believe in the principle of reciprocal concessions. Khrushchev once said that the principle of reciprocal concessions is the logic of merchants. However, in conclusion, what you propose at the start is not what is proposed at the end because at the beginning you propose the maximum you want while maintaining an idea about the minimum you may get.

[Mustafa] It was reported that normalization was one of the clauses of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. However, normalization is currently unclear in Egyptian-Israeli relations.

[Al-Baz] Normalization is a word invented by some Israelis in the hope they may be able to impose a certain picture of a special relationship with Egypt. This concept is wrong and is rejected. We informed the Israelis on various occasions that we reject this way of thinking. I would like to stress that there is no special relationship between Egypt and Israel. It is a normal relationship between two states which embarked on a peace process that would include all Arab fronts. This peace must also include peace between the Palestinian people and Israel, Jordan and Israel, Syria and Israel, and even Lebanon and Israel, because Lebanon has borders that we want to safeguard against the Israeli aggression.

We completely rejected and continue to reject any talk about normalization if it means that Egypt as a whole, both government and people, should establish certain relations and contacts whether it likes it or not. We are committed only to ending the state of war and to establishing a peaceful relationship that is suppose to be part of a comprehensive peace.

I do not consider that as a restriction on my freedom. So long as I am not committed to a special, relationship, I am not committed to normalization as understood by Israel. I am only committed to ending the state of war and entering into a peace relationship as part of a comprehensive peace.

If we ask: Does the legal conclusion of the state of war and the beginning of the peace process harm Arab interests, and Egyptian interests in particular? I say: No, because the mere existence of the state of war does not serve any party. On the contrary, the state of war that existed for a long time had caused two things:

First, it strengthened the trend toward domination and extremism inside Israel; in other words, the rejectionist trend. Some politicians are exploiting the state of war to make the Israeli people believe that they are being exposed to extinction. They tell the Israelis that the Arab states would pounce on them like vultures. They exploited that a great deal, and our own media also rendered them a great service. All this has led to outcries for extremism and violence among the Israeli people.

Second, it has enabled Israel to use the same method with other states in order to obtain arms and funds continuously. Israel made countries like the United States quickly accept the idea of military superiority. It said: In order to achieve stability in the Middle East, Israel must always be superior to all the Arab states combined. This has led to the loss of Arab rights at every phase. At every phase, the Arab nation had to accept a situation that did not exist in the previous phase. This also has led to the swallowing up of Arab lands in the Golan, the West Bank, and Gaza for the purpose of building settlements. Israel seized lands even inside Arab towns. Israel has claimed the ownership of more than 30% of the lands in the West Bank. It has seized these lands for certain specific projects, on security pretexts, or for the purpose of building settlements on them. The same thing happened in the densely populated Gaza strip. Some 600,000 people live in this small strip which is no more than 10 square kilometers. All this has maintained the state of war. However, the main thing is, does the state of peace serve any Arab party, or not? I believe that it serves the general Arab objective, which is to ensure our security. This is because in the past, Israel used to say that it should be protected from the Arab states, but the truth is that Israel attacked the Arab states and expanded every day. If we are to consider the situation between Israel and Lebanon now, we will know who stands to benefit from border security arrangements. Is it Lebanon that is attacking Israel, or is it the opposite? Has Syria taken anything from Israel, or is it the opposite? Jordan also wants to secure its border with Israel. So it is our duty to secure not only the Jordanian border, but also the the Jordanian entity from claims made by such extremists as Sharon who called for the establishment of an alternative Palestinian entity in Jordan. We must take such plans seriously and deal with them firmly. They may seem a trivial matter now, but our dealings with Israel have taught us that what is being raised at such a level actually has a mechanism and supporters who say: Why not?

We must besiege Israel with the peace challenge. For instance, did we use the relationship and contacts between Egypt and Israel for conspiracies or harmful alliances against Arab interests? No, we used them to warn Israel against supplying arms to Iran and striking at the reactor in Iraq. We used them to make Israel withdraw from Lebanon. The recalling of our ambassador has become a new instrument of pressure that we did not have before. We are using it now to back our brothers in the occupied territory and to stop the repressive measures. We contacted Israel 3 days ago in order to dispatch urgent medicines and foodstuffs as well as a medical mission to make sure that our brothers who have been injured in the incidents are getting adequate care. We are holding various contacts with Israel. We are now thinking about several other matters. We want to protect Al-Aqsa Mosque. How can we protect it? We must first renovate it so that it could not be said that it is collapsing and must be removed. Second, we want to protect it from extremists and lunatics by getting a commitment from Israel that it would not permit anyone to desecrate this mosque, which is one of our holiest shrines.

Opposition Papers To Protest Restrictions

PM111505 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
5 Jan 88 pp 1, 5

[Unattributed report: "Opposition Newspapers Stop Publication in Protest at Government Conspiracy To Eliminate Them"]

[Excerpt] The leaders of Egypt's opposition parties—Labor, Wafd, National Progressive, and Liberal—have decided to stop publication of the newspapers published by their parties from Monday through Thursday of next week in protest over the government decision to prevent journalists belonging to these parties from combining their work in the party newspapers with work in the national press institutions.

On the basis of this decision, the AL-AHRAR newspaper will stop publication next Monday, AL-SHA'B on Tuesday, and AL-AHALI on the Wednesday after next, and the weekly AL-WAFD will not be published until the Thursday after next.

In another development, the journalists union council met yesterday afternoon and decided unanimously to reject the decisions passed by the boards of directors of the national press institutions preventing journalists who work on party newspapers from working on the national newspapers, stressing the importance of having opinions expressed. It said that the matter ought to be dealt with as a problem relating to journalists and the press as a whole, and that newspaper institutions ought to acquaint themselves with the opinion of the journalists' union before adopting any decision with respect to their interests and their future. [passage omitted]

Libya

Algeria's Bendjedid Arrives for Visit

Welcomed by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD111752 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the Algerian FLN party and president of the Republic, arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

A huge welcome was accorded President Bendjedid. The brother leader of the revolution was at the forefront of those who welcomed him. Also participating in the welcome were the following: Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, the assistant secretary and members of the Secretariat of the General People's Congress, members of the General People's Committee and a number of secretaries of the General People's Congresses and General People's Committees of the municipalities, the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Algeria, a number of officers from the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, the heads of political missions accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah, and the ambassador and staff of the Algerian Embassy in the Great Jamahiriyah.

President Chadli Bendjedid is accompanied by Brothers Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Committee; Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs; El Hadi Khdiri, member of the FLN Central Committee and interior minister; and Larbi Belkheir, member of the Office of the Presidency of the Republic.

Discussions Held 11 Jan

LD112007 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Jan (JANA)—A round of talks was held in Tripoli this evening between the brother leader of the revolution and President Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the Algerian FLN Party and president of the Republic.

The talks were attended by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud; Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Party; the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison; Brother Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs; the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Service; Brother El Hadi Khdiri, member of the Central Committee of the Algerian FLN Party and interior minister; Brother Larbi Belkheir, member of the Central Committee of the Algerian FLN Party and director of the Office at the Presidency of the Republic; the brother secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in fraternal Algeria; and Brother Abdelkader Hadjar, Algerian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Banquet Attendees Noted

LD121038 Tripoli JANA in English 0925 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution gave a banquet last night in honour of the Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and the delegation accompanying him.

Present at the banquet were Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, Brother 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, the assistant secretary general of the Syrian Socialist Arab Ba'th [words indistinct] Mirghani al-Nasri, member of the Sudanese Supreme Council, Brother [name indistinct], secretary of the permanent committee of the General People's Congress in North Yemen, delegations to the Arab ruling parties' congress, the assistant secretary of the General People's Congress in the Jamahiriyah, a number of secretaries of the people's committees and congresses in the Great Jamahiriyah and heads of [word indistinct] and foreign diplomatic missions in the Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Cited in AL-SAFIR Interview

NC041050 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 1 Jan 88 pp 8, 9

[Interview with leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by AL-SAFIR Chief Editor Talal Salman and correspondent Walid al-Husayni in Tripoli; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-SAFIR] We are about to begin a new year and the world is moving toward a new phase in international relations after the Washington summit. Some see this as a great step toward peace, while others consider it a triumph of Gorbachev's policy. A third group views it as a Soviet retreat before the U.S. onslaught. What about us, the Arabs? How do we view the summit, particularly as our basic causes, the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict, were not officially on the agenda?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] It is wrong to view the Gorbachev-Reagan summit as a peace summit. It has nothing to do with peace at all. It was merely a meeting to discuss the removal of weapons that pose a threat to the United States and the USSR, since the two superpowers are the only parties capable of deploying them in Europe.

It is true that this step did ease European anxieties regarding nuclear arms, but Europe still faces the danger of conventional forces overrunning it in the event of a Soviet-U.S. conflict. In such a case chemical as well as other Soviet weapons would be used. This means that Europe is still under threat. The two giants have eliminated part of the danger. However, the purpose of the summit was not to relieve European anxieties but to remove a danger to the USSR and the United States. They succeeded, but the issue was not connected with world peace.

The Soviet Union enjoys superiority in conventioanl weapons and is doing its utmost to halt the arms race at this stage in order to maintain its superiority. Meanwhile, the United States clings to the Star Wars program. Something in return for something else, exactly as it was in the Kennedy-Khrushchev agreement at the time of the Cuban crisis—a U.S. base in Cuba in exchange for acceptance of the Communist regime there.

[AL-SAFIR] When there is a reduction of tension between the superpowers, does this not have a positive effect on the world?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Absolutely not. A reduction of tension between the two giants signifies the exportation of disturbances to the world. If we restrain the impulses of the two superpowers they must have outlets elsewhere in the world. This is actually happening now. Immediately after the summit, Reagan announced the extension of the siege on Libya which was due to end next month. He said that Libya poses a danger to the vital foreign national interests of the United States. This appeared in the text of a message which he sent to Congress. We have addressed ourselves to the UN Security Council and General Assembly and have also asked that a meeting of the EC be convened in order to discuss how Libya poses a threat to U.S. vital interests, and in what sense Libya has a terrorist policy when our people eat, breathe, build, and live on their land? Does the conquest of the desert, the construction of a great man-made river, and the building of factories pose a danger to the United States and its foreign interests? We want an answer to this. We want to know if any secure people living on their land can worry the United States and threaten its interests. If we or any other people like us cause so much worry and such a threat to the United States, then that means that it does not want anything else to live on the planet.

Had world peace been the focus of the summit, Reagan would not have dared to extend the siege on Libya. Gorbachev would have told Reagan that when the two superpowers were meeting at the highest level to prepare to eliminate nuclear arms and take the world toward peace, it was not fitting for the United States to fight the poor Libyan people and threaten such a small country.

Gorbachev said nothing of the sort. For this reason, Reagan left the meeting to declare the extension of sanctions against Libya and to carry out hostile military activity against us in the Mediterranean by forming a U.S.-Egyptian aerial umbrella. On our radar, we monitored an Israeli sortie approaching Libya. This means there was a training mission carried out by Egyptian and U.S. planes to cover a possible Israeli operation that might be carried out now, or in 1 or 2 years' time.

This is what the United States did after the summit with the Soviets and this is what Egypt did after the Amman summit; namely, these two countries gave further aid and support to Israel. This is what Egypt offered to those Arabs who restored relations with it. Relations were restored and coordination was increased with the Zionist enemy against an Arab country at the same time. Is this not a sign of shame and obloquy?

[AL-SAFIR] This confirms your slogan "We do not seek peace from them. We just want them to leave us in peace."

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Exactly. Note the massacres to which the Palestinian people were subjected after the Gorbachev-Reagan summit. They are a provocation to Arab dignity and they expose the superpower summit. It is also another big scandal for the Arab countries which resumed relations with Egypt. Does the Gaza Strip not belong to Egypt? Why, then, does Egypt remain silent over the massacre of the Palestinians? Why does it massacre the Nasirites in Egypt at the same time? Is it not because it is a true ally of Israel?

Why does the Egyptian regime detain the Nasirites? Because they fought the Israelis inside Egypt. Is that not so? Why does the Egyptian regime remain silent over

Israel's treatment of the Palestinian people? Because they—the Palestinian people—are resisting the occupation. Isn't that so? Therefore, the Egyptian regime rejects any action against the Zionist enemy. This gives us the right to question the reasons which drove the Arabs to return to Egypt.

This does not mean we have gone off the subject. The massacres in occupied Palestine took place after the superpower summit, exactly like the extension of the sanctions against Libya. I expect further strikes against the Lebanese people, and against Angola, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, SWAPO, and Nicaragua. Why did Gorbachev declare an end to assistance to Nicaragua imediately after the summit?

[AL-SAFIR] Perhaps in return for something in Afghanistan?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] This is possible. At any rate, they tried to save themselves and sacrificed the peoples of the entire world.

[AL-SAFIR] The Amman summit was the epitome of Arab retreat and submission to American hegemony. The summit's resolutions and its final statement in particular were a literal implementation of the memorandum from the U.S. ambassador in Amman to the Arab League secretary general. Where are the Arabs heading after the Amman summit?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I have made many attempts to repair Arab divisions through the Arab union plan. I have made many attempts to end the Gulf war and I have succeeded in preventing it from spilling over into Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and other Gulf states. We have extended help to Mauritania, Yemen, and other countries. Then, unfortunately, the Amman summit came and restored Arab relations with Egypt. The goals that we were pursuing and which were almost achieved were lost. They went to Egypt. Let them go and seek help from Egypt. They have no right from now on to ask for my help, either economically or militarily. What we have repaired exploded at the Amman summit. Hence I expect violence to erupt in Arab capitals in the future: liquidations, revolutions, demonstrations. I tell them all now that I have nothing to do with this. But who can prevent the revolutionary forces in the Arab homeland from getting underway? I believe that many heads will roll in the coming years.

[AL-SAFIR] Do you believe that the Amman summit marked the beginning of the transformation of the Iraqi-Iran war into an Arab-Persian war?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] That was in fact the general atmosphere in Amman. Libya alone stood against turning the war into a Persian-Arab one. The stands of the conferees in Amman were indeed against Iran and the revolution. But this does not affect matters in any way. Iran was not worried by the Amman meeting because it knew well that it was a meeting of losers.

[AL-SAFIR] What is your assessment of the role of influential Arab parties in the Amman summit?

[Al-Qadhdhafi, interupting] The role was the U.S. ambassador's.

[AL-SAFIR] Do you have a clear idea of what is taking place in Lebanon? What is your concept of what it could be in the future?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] My concept is always one of jamahiriyah. If we want to keep Lebanon united, then it must be a jamahiriyah. There is no solution for the sectarian Lebanese situation except a jamahiriyah system, where the government is canceled and the power struggle ends because there will be no ministers, deputies, or army. The alternative to all this is direct democracy, the establishment of popular conferences and popular committees and the arming of the people.

[AL-SAFIR] The jamahiriyah invests abroad. Why don't you take the initiative by investing in Lebanon, for example, in Tripoli, Al-Biqa', Sidon, West Beirut, and south Lebanon, and help the Lebanese people overcome their economic catastrophe, particularly as there are a number of projects which could be economically useful?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] This must in fact be done and it should also include projects in East Beirut and all parts of Lebanon, without discrimination. I will look very closely into this matter.

[AL-SAFIR] Following the conference of Arab opposition parties and after the convening of the conference of the ruling parties, will there be any attempt to benefit from the atmosphere and trends of the two conferences by calling for a united Arab movement?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] A united Arab movement will naturally emerge if we continue along this line, and the Arab parties will be unified. There is the Arab people's congress and there is the pan-Arab command of the Arab revolution forces; that is, there is a fighting force and political leadership. A united Arab movement will emerge automatically when further meetings have been held.

[AL-SAFIR] The Palestinian issue must be dealt with. You have a basic role in this. After all that has taken place, and particularly after the Amman summit, what program can be worked out to deal with this subject?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We consider the unity of the Palestinian resistance, under the PLO, to be a pan-Arab demand, but the PLO now means Yasir 'Arafat, and whoever opposes Yasir 'Arafat appears to be against the PLO. This situation is not right and a line should be drawn between the two. I insist on the unification of the Palestinians within the PLO; otherwise, we will not be able to find a solution to the Palestinian problem.

[AL-SAFIR] You support the existence of a strong liberation organization, then. But what will the situation be if the organization is strong and leads the Palestinians to direct negotiations? Or, as is now hapening, it leads to direct meetings with the Zionist enemy?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The liberation organization cannot lead the Palestinians to treason. One person is betraying and leading the organization in this direction. Therefore, the organization must overthrow him; he must not overthrow the organization.

[AL-SAFIR] You have met with PLO leaders several times. Did you sense any hope that the PLO will revert to the bases of the Arab-Zionist conflict?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Whoever comes to us shows readiness to fight and to engage in armed struggle. One-upmanship is intense. However, we can talk about this only after the unification of the Palestinians. That is when we will be able to introduce these tendencies to the program of a unified PLO. As I have mentioned, the shortcomings are not in the PLO because its program provides for the elimination of the Zionist entity and for the complete liberation of Palestine; the defect is in the persons who lead the PLO.

[AL-SAFIR] For 2 or 3 years, you have made intensive attempts to reunify the PLO. However, there were more than two political concepts. The dispute was not personal. Political disagreement put some of the Palestinian factions outside the framework of the PLO Executive Committee, but not outside the PLO itself. For this reason these factions did not participate in the PNC meeting in Algeria, and consequently did not participate in the Executive Committee. Do you believe that the PLO can be unified without resolving the political conflict among the various tendencies?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] According to my experience of this problem, 'Arafat is the PLO and the PLO is 'Arafat. We cannot conceal this fact in any way. Therefore, the factions that are outside the PLO left because they are against Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. This made them appear as if they were against the PLO, while in fact they are not. Abu 'Ammar inherited the PLO and became its owner; it is now his voice alone.

[AL-SAFIR] Therefore, inter-Palestinian reconciliation is impossible?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Certainly, there can be no reconciliation as long as 'Arafat dominates the PLO. From this statement I do not want it to be understood that I am talking about misgivings about 'Arafat; I am talking about the Palestinian state of affairs. This problem will continue until the PLO becomes one thing and Abu 'Ammar another.

[AL-SAFIR] Can this be achieved? In a sense, will Abu 'Ammar become a person and not an organization? Will the PLO come to mean Palestine and not individuals?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The solution lies with the Palestinian people.

[AL-SAFIR] Where does your view and that of the Syrians coincide on this subject? Where do you agree and where do you differ?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The Syrians have the same analysis.

[AL-SAFIR] Therefore, reconciliation between Yasir 'Arafat and the Syrians is also impossible as long as this confusion between the person of Abu 'Ammar and the PLO exists. Syria's objections, like yours, are political and not personal. Is there no possibility of reducing these disputes?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The only possibility is to make concessions. When we accept and shake hands with King Husayn, we might accept and shake hands with Yasir 'Arafat. Syria is aware that King Husayn is a traitor and has been secretly negotiating with the Israelis since the days of Golda Me'ir and Moshe Dayan. But Syria established a relationship with him so that he will not go to the enemy and enter into direct negotiations that will result in another Camp David accord. It is acting under duress and not out of conviction. It might also be compelled to shake hands with Abu 'Ammar. That this could happen politically is unlikely but it is not impossible. [passage omitted]

[AL-SAFIR] Libya's enemies are the enemies of the Arabs, and from this point of view we could understand the arrival of Lebanese and Palestinian troops to fight alongside the Libyans. However, some parties are trying to depict the struggle as an Arab-African one, and this issue has surfaced in many African countries that have Lebanese communities. The campaign in such countries is based on the allegation that the Lebanese came to Libya to fight the Africans, and, therefore, they must be deported from these African countries. How should this campaign against the Lebanese be dealt with?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The Lebanese leaders have explained this issue before. However, Libya is the headquarters of the national command for the Arab revolutionary forces, the charter of which stipulates the defense of any part of the Arab homeland that comes under threat, particularly the revolutionary areas. Libya is now under threat, not from Chad at all, but from France and America. An alliance has been formed against Libya that comprises, in addition to America and France, Egypt, Israel, Zaire, and the Ivory Coast. Chad is merely the land used by these hostile forces. The French brought a black military division into Chad, and so did the Americans. The arms come from Egypt and Israel and the training officers come from Egypt, Israel, America, and France. Fighters and arms come from Zaire and other places. We are actually confronting armies and Habre is only a mask. For this reason, the Arab revolutionary forces rushed to defend their headquarters, Libya. They did not come to fight Chad. Some of the commanders of these fighters told Habre that the Labenese and Palestinian fighters did not come to fight against Chad, because there is no problem between Libya and Chad, but only to fight against imperialism. These commanders even advised Habre to get rid of imperialism, as this would resolve the Chadian problem. However, the decision is not up to Habre; it is up to the United States, which asked Habre to fight against Libya in return for financial, food, military, and training assistance.

France itself is worried about the U.S. role and has told us of its concern. It is the United States that is leading this war against Libya from Chad. The United States wanted to settle accounts with Libya and found in Hissein Habre a pliable tool. As for France, it has no interest in the outbreak of war between Libya and Chad, because it has made a commitment to the Africans to defend Chad at the 16th parallel. As for the Americans, there is no commitment that can restrict their adventure. If the forces of the anti-Libyan alliance succeeded in fomenting war against us, and consequently, exhausting us militarily, the United States would thus have fulfilled its sabotage role. On the other hand, if Libya managed to take Chad, the United States could retreat and pull itself out on the pretext that it has no troops in Chad and is not committed to defend it. It is an embarrassment for the French and an adventure that may succeed or fail.

As for the Lebanese working in the African countries, we believe that any harassment of them is a dirty racist action. Libya is an African country that is fighting with the South African revolutionaries against the racist regime. Libya is the chief source of finance for SWAPO. Therefore, no one can accuse us of an ethnic war, while those who level such an accusations are being used as fuel for this war, which is created by the United States.

Jabir Meets USSR's Kondakov, Sudanese Minister

LD111825 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1745 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Jan (JANA)-Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, today received Lieutenant General Kondakov, chief of the 10th Directorate of the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces, and the delegation accompanying him.

Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir also received Nur al-Da'im, the minister of agriculture of fraternal Sudan.

Jallud Hails Current Palestinian 'Uprising'

LD081003 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Jan (JANA)—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud has hailed the youth, the women, the girls, and the children of occupied Palestine who are confronting with sticks and stones the Zionist enemy's machinery, which is supported by the United States with the most sophisticated means of destruction.

In an address at a solidarity meeting last night, he said that this uprising has been a honor to our nation and an honor to our great people in occupied Palestine. The Palestinian people have proved that their resistance is increasing and that they are qualified to shoulder responsibility. He pointed out that the Arab masses in occupied Palestine have been waiting for liberation. However, they have now shouldered their responsibility and taken the initiative; this uprising is basically a reply to the Amman summit conference.

Staff Maj 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud warned Arab reactionary regimes not to plot against this uprising or to look for capitulationist solutions in order to liquidate the pan-Arab struggle of our Arab nation which is, as a whole, being targeted by imperialism and Zionism. He also saluted the Arab people in Lebanon for their courageous confrontation and heroic fight against the Zionist enemy. He added that the the Arab people in Lebanon have accepted the destruction of every Lebanese house, street, and village for the sake of the Palestinian cause, the pan-Arab cause of the Arab nation.

Staff Maj 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud pointed out that the uprising of the Arab people in occupied Palestine and the confrontation of the Arab people in Lebanon is an escalation of the armed struggle and an affirmation of the dictum that peoples cannot be defeated, because the Palestinian Arab people have triumphed, thanks to their faith and resoluteness, over the most sophisticated Zionist-NATO weaponry.

Staff Maj 'Abd Al-Salam Ahmad Jallud also hailed the Arab people in Egypt who demonstrated in solidarity and support for the uprising of the Arab people in occupied Palestine.

Staff Maj 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud affirmed that the uprising in occupied Palestine played an effective role in activating and inciting Arab reality in a number of Arab countries. He called on the Arab masses to unite with the Arab people in occupied Palestine and to carry out a popular action for collecting donations and money. He also pointed out that the duty of progressive working forces and democratic and peace forces in the world is not just to be in solidarity with the Palestinian people, but also to set up an international campaign to support the Palestinian Arab people and to stand by them as they did with the Arab revolution in Algeria, and with the Vietnamese people in their struggle against colonialism.

He also said that our people in the occupied territories do not expect words and praise from us, but they do require us to be with them in the battle and to be a natural extension of their struggle. They are fighting in our defense in the forward trenches and are fighting for our existence and our pan-Arab identity.

He called on the participants in the meeting of the Central Council of the Arab Workers' Confederation to make available the material means and support for the Arab masses in occupied Palestine, pointing out that the Zionist enemy and U.S. imperialism are starving the Palestinian Arab people and are creating bad conditions for them.

Commentary on UK's Mellor Remarks in Israel

LD052358 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Political commentary]

[Text] Among the pecularities of the political memory of British politicians is that they do not remember that they were a major cause for the rendering of 5 million Palestinian Arabs homeless, which occurred during their colonialist mandate over Palestine and their granting of Palestine to the Zionists through the notorious declaration of Balfour, who was foreign minister at the time. This despite the fact that the British documents pertaining to this matter are available to all, including the British themselves.

Among the peculiarities of the political memory of British politicians is that during their mandate over Palestine they passed a law for fighting the Arabs which became known as the emergency law. This is the same law which the Zionist entity applies to the Arabs under occupation. It satisfies the Zionist inclinations, based on crime and terrorism, against the Arabs, and enables them at the same time to claim that they are simply implementing a law legislated by the British.

David Mellor is a British personality. In his capacity as a minister of state at the Foreign Office he paid a visit a few days ago to occupied Palestine to become acquainted with the conditions of Arabs there, as he claimed. He visited the camps and Arab cities and met with several personalities there. British compassion simmered! The man was shocked and the reason, said David Mellor, was that he had discovered that the Zionists' treatment of the Palestinian Arab camps lacked the basics of human civilization, and that the Zionist enemy should reconsider this matter. In its treatment of the Palestinian Arab population, taking into consideration the civilized laws which were formulated first by British colonialism when the British empire, on which the sun never set, used to control more than half the Arab people through the colonialist policy based on terrorism, this colonialist empire left its colonies after it had split them and ripped them apart so that they may continue to suffer from the laws of the ancient British civilization.

The question here is: Is there a difference between the killers of yesterday and those of today? Is there a difference between the laws of Great Britain, which were formulated by killing and terrorism, and those of the Zionist killers and criminals? We do not believe that there is a difference between the criminals. Consequently, we do not forget that Britain was a major cause for the planting of the Zionist entity through force and terrorism, and through unlimited British help in the consolidation of this usurper Zionist entity. As to the racist Zionist occupation, we need not talk about its civility; since its creation it has been practicing killing, desiring expansion, and waging aggressive wars against the Arabs. The Zionist enemy, which has become a military barracks through continued colonialist assistance from world imperialism, led by the United States, the strategic ally of the Zionist enemy, this enemy understands nothing of civilization other than its special civilization which it practices daily, which is represented in the killing of the Arab people and the letting of its blood, its pursual and exile (?everywhere), and even the waging of a war of genocide against it everywhere in the world.

We will not thank the British minister for his agitated compassion because we cannot do so; we have fed our children on the British civilized heritage and taught them how Britain, which speaks boastfully about civilization, made a promise to one who does not deserve it in our land, Palestine, and worked through this promise for the expulsion of the Palestinian people, which is spread now in the countries of dispersion, subject to rulers and the oppression of unjust regimes. We teach our children that had the Zionist enemy been able, it would have thrown the whole Palestinian people out of occupied Palestine, keeping in mind that it is indeed working toward this through its daily oppressive and terrorist practices. We teach them that the statements of the British minister, or the U.S. official, or any speech by this crusading bloc which hates the Arabs and Islam, are only meant to throw sand in the eyes; rather, they have at times a political significance bigger than the sentiments and wishes. They contain in their folds the need to eliminate what has remained of the Palestinian people, because it has resorted to arms and resisted and shall continue to do so until the pan-Arab banner flies over Palestine.

The camps which have stirred the emotions of David Mellor have their special civilized laws: the laws which have turned the stone into a deadly weapon; the laws which have turned the empty bottle into a burning bomb; the laws which have turned the chests believing in martyrdom into shields receiving the bullets of the enemies, which rise again and revolt generation after generation against the oppression, tyranny and occupation. And if sympathy comes from Britain or the United States, which claim to preserve human rights, this sympathy is not different from the Zionist sympathy with the Arabs, which is summed up in the motto that the best Arab is a dead one.

Let them have their own civilization and let us have our own civilization; the civilization of the will that cannot be defeated, the civilization of victory and rejection of defeat, the civilization of liberation, victory and martyrdom.

Adami, Maltese Delegation End Visit

Joint Communique Released

LD061740 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] A joint Libyan Arab-Maltese communique was issued today in both Tripoli and Valeta at the end of the visit by Dr Fenech Adami, prime minister of the Republic of Malta, and his accompanying delegation to the Great Jamahiriyah. The text follows:

At the invitation of Brother 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Jamahiriyah, Edward Fenech Adami, prime minister of the Republic of Malta, paid an official visit to the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah at the head of a high-ranking Maltese delegation from 4-6 January 1988.

During this visit, Fenech Adami was given a warm welcome which expressed the strong relations of friendship existing between the peoples of the two countries and the depth of the historical ties which link them in particular and Malta and the Arab countries in general.

Fenech Adami and his accompanying delegation were favored with meeting with the brother leader of the Great 1 September Revolution. During this visit, the delegations of the two countries held talks which covered bilateral relations and joint cooperation, as well as the Arab and international issues.

The two sides have expressed their determination to continue developing joint investment for the benefit of the two friendly peoples. In affirmation of the strategic importance of the Mediterranean Sea basin, and the necessity that it should be a lake of security and peace, the two sides have expressed their determination to do all they can in order to strengthen security, peace, and cooperation in the region. In this respect the two sides have affirmed their support for the resolutions concerning the Mediterranean Sea basin which were agreed upon by the Mediterranean nonaligned countries in the Brioni Conference held in June 1987.

The two sides have affirmed their support for the Palestinian Arab people and have strongly condemned the inhuman repressive practices against the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories. They have affirmed the necessity of safeguarding the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights to self-determination and to establish its independent state on its land.

When reviewing the situation in Africa, the two sides condemned the apartheid policy practiced in South Africa and expressed their complete support for the peoples of South Africa and the Frontline States.

The two sides also affirmed their respect for the UN principles and aims, as well as their consideration for the role this organization plays in the consolidation of international peace and security.

They agreed on coordination and cooperation in international meetings.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the results reached during this visit and expressed their determination to achieve new steps and prospects in order to strengthen the relations between the two fraternal peoples and with the peoples of the Mediterranean Sea basin.

Edward Fenech Adami, prime minister of the Republic of Malta, invited the brother secretary of the General People's Committee of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Jamahiriyah to visit Malta, which he accepted with satisfaction. The date of the visit will be set later.

Banking, Oil Cooperation

LD061715 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1425 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Jan, (JANA)—The Great Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Malta this afternoon signed two agreements of cooperation in banking and oil.

Departure Reported

LD071320 Tripoli JANA in English 1055 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Dr. V. Tabone, the foreign minister of Malta, left Tripoli yesterday after concluding his visit to Great al-Jamahiriyah.

In comments made to JANA, Mr. Tabone has commended the warm welcome accorded to the Maltese delegation during its visit to Great al-Jamahiriyah and for the meeting held with the leader of the revolution and also the secretary and members of the General People's Committee.

He adds that this visit has provided a good chance to his delegation to reiterate the good friendly and strong relations between the two countries, apart from making it possible to draw up a plan and a long-term programme for cooperation in the cultural and economic spheres.

He stresses that the discussions held here will have fruitful and excellent results in a manner serving the interests of the Libyan Arab and Maltese peoples.

Arab League's Klibi Sends Message on Tunisia

LD041316 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jan (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received a message from Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi in which he highly praises the restoration of normalcy of relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia.

In his message, Klibi said that this step stems from your anxiousness to preserve the best relations and closest cooperation with a neighboring and fraternal country, and comes as an affirmation of your efforts to unite the Arab nation and to create a unified Arab stance capable of standing up to the fateful challenges now facing our Arab nation.

Klibi told the brother leader: I cannot but express my admiration at this decision which consolidates what exists between the two fraternal countries—bonds woven by their common past and affiliation which serves the sublime interests of our Arab nation and provides the necessary elements for safeguarding our nation's security.

Sudan

AL-SHA'B Claims Israeli Military Aiding Rebels

PM111511 Cairo AL-SH'AB in Arabic 5 Jan 88 p 1

[Muhammad Nawwar report: "Israeli Experts Participate in Southern Sudan War"]

[Text] Sources in fraternal Sudan have told AL-SHA'B that Sudan is convinced that there are military experts from Israel working with the rebels in the south. The experts fall into two categories: one deals with training the rebel forces on the use of Israeli weapons, whose procurement by the rebels has been proved; the other directs military operations against the Sudanese Army!

There are known to be Ethiopian forces fighting with the rebels, and Sudanese forces succeeded in capturing two of their soldiers last week.

Egypt Lobbies to Close Rebel Training Camps

PM071135 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jan 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Sudan To Discuss Border Security Agreement With Ethiopia"]

[Text] Khartoum, Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—It was announced in Khartoum yesterday that, during meetings to begin Thursday, the Sudanese-Ethiopian committee will discuss border problems and security matters in addition to the internal difficulties which impede relations between the two countries.

Sudanese Minister of State at the Defense Ministry Major General Fadlallah Nasir has stated that his country "will try to arrive at a security agreement during the meeting on the common borders with all neighboring countries." He urged continuation of negotiations between the government and the rebels to achieve a peaceful solution to the problem of southern Sudan.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources in Cairo say that Egypt has asked certain friendly African states to close down the southern Sudanese rebels' training camps in these countries to pave the way for a peaceful settlement through negotiation.

The sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Egypt informed Sudan recently that Egypt's aid to Sudan is a firm priority commitment and a strategic and security necessity, and that Egypt is carefully watching the Sudanese borders to abort any foreign designs to disrupt Sudan's security and stability.

The sources pointed out that President Husni Mubarak's messages to the Sudanese leaders in the Sudanese State Council and Government confirmed Egypt's commitment and adherence to the joint defense pact between the two countries.

They further said that Egypt has followed recent developments in southern Sudan and the battles between the Sudanese Army and the rebels, and that a full report was prepared including Egypt's assessment of these events and battles, especially the peformance of the Sudanese Army and rebel forces.

SPLA Withdrawal From Kurmuk 'Tactical Move'

EA071619 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] A member of the SPLM/SPLA Political Military High Command and the Chief of Staff, Commander William Nyuan Bany Deng, has said that the SPLA's withdrawal from Kurmuk is a tactical move taken to allow the enemy to bring more military hardware to the battlefield, which will eventually fall into the SPLA hands. He assured the Sudanese people that the entry of the Khartoum Government troops to Kurmuk is a short lived victory which will prove disastrous to the rulers in Khartoum. He pointed out that the Khartoum Government's accusation of some foreign countries being behind the SPLA was a lie intended to attract some foreign support for its army.

Chief of Staff William Nyuan Bany Deng went on to say that it is the Khartoum Government which has brought foreign military planes, MIG-23 and TU-22 bombers, and foreign pilots to fight the SPLA. In this regard, Commander Deng assured the foreign powers backing the Khartoum Government that the SPLA is not against a particular race in Sudan, but it is fighting to bring an end to the social injustice perpetrated against the Sudanese people by a small group of people. He maintained that the current conflict in the country is purely a Sudanese affair, which does not call for the intervention of some foreign powers to internationalize.

Looking back into the country's history since independence, the SPLA Chief of Staff pointed out that Sudan has produced nothing for its people except bloodshed and suffering caused by the selfish politicians who do not understand the common problems of the people.

In conclusion, the Chief of Staff Commander Deng reassured the rulers in Khartoum and their foreign backers that the oppressed masses of Sudan led by the SPLM/SPLA are convinced of their just cause, and are ready to fight to the last drop of their blood.

Generals al-Fadil, Nasir Report Stable Security

EA071934 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Brother comrades-in-arms and honorable listeners, AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH, published today, Thursday 7 January 1988, carried the following headline: "The Commander in Chief: Our Forces Are in Full Control of the Situation in All Parts of the Country." [passage omitted]

AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH reported the following: General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces, stressed that our forces are in full control of the situation in all parts of the country and that the security situation is completely stable, including in the two areas of Al-Kurmuk and Qaysan. His excellency stressed in press statements the day before yesterday, while attending the festival of appreciation staged by Imam al-Mahdi voluntary [word indistinct] society, the complete and steadfast preparedness of our forces to safeguard the country's security and protect its soil and honor.

To a question put by AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH to Retired Major General Fadlallah Burmah Nasir, minister of state in the Ministry of Defense, on the effect on the peace operation of the military skirmishes with Ethiopian forces since the liberation of Qaysan, his excellency said: Our borders are stable on all fronts, and we are striving for a just peace without surrender. We shall continue to support and train our Armed Forces, in peace or war, until they become a strike force to protect our long borders. His excellency stressed that a large sum had been allocated for rehabilitating the Armed Forces equal to the funds allocated over the last 3 years.

On the meeting of the joint Sudanese-Ethiopian Committee, his excellency said: We hope that the committee will discuss all issues very frankly and clearly so that relations between the two countries can be brought back to normal, something which the government has stressed at more than one meeting. [passage omitted]

Al-Tawm Muhammad al-Tawm, minister of information said: On the agenda of the meeting will be discussion of Ethiopia's involvement and intereference in the occupation of Al-Kurmuk and the Ethiopian violations of Sudanese territory, as the confessions of prisoners (?proved) that the rebels equipment and maneuvers emanated from Ethiopian territory.

The Sudanese side will be represented by, in addition to the minister of foreign affairs, Retired Major General Fadlallah Burmah, minister of state in the Ministry of Defense; a representative from the Ministery of the Interior, and a representative from military intelligence.

His excellency the foreign minister expressed the hope that the meeting would come up with satisfactory results to restrict and stop the Ethiopian acts of aggressions against Sudanese territory. [passage omitted]

In a report from the area of operations, AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH said that, following the increase in the outlaws activities and their attempt to besiege Kapoeta, our forces rushed convoys to the area which clashed with the outlaws and forced them to flee. They also shelled with mortars the outlaws camp in (Karenga) area, killing six outlaws and injuring a large number of them. [passage omitted]

Omdurman Reports Rebel Retreat on All Fronts

EA072002 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Brother comrades-in-arms and honorable listeners, peace and the mercy of God be upon you.

Those who have followed recent news about the rebel movement will know that every day it is suffering increasing defeats on all fronts. The stooge movement opted to fight to impose its views. In addition to the severe defeats it suffered at Al-Murmuk and Qaysan, and the large number of corpses it left behind there, we find that in the southern operational areas the movement has begun to retreat from all the areas it formerly claimed to control. In all areas the armed forces have begun to pursue the members of this despairing movement, in order to purge our beloved south of their dirty deeds. These deeds angered everyone, because they were in no way intended to liberate Sudan, as has been falsely alleged by the outlaw radio on behalf of its mercenary leaders. [passage omitted]

The movement has lost any credibility it had that would persuade people to join it. Not only this, but it no longer has adequate powers of persuasion for those who have joined it to continue to take part in fighting operations devoid of any objective and not achieving any success.

The severe defeats that our armed forces have inflicted on the rebel movement in recent months have prompted many of the sons of the south, who reflected and concluded that there was [word indistinct] to continue with the movement, to surrender their arms, return to their homes, stay with their families, and live a stable life like their brothers. The hestitant remainder have very low morale, the only deterrent to their return being the rebels' propaganda that if they surrendered they would be killed. This is a form of black propaganda and is devoid of any truth. All the brothers who have returned have been accorded the best reception and are now living like any other citizens. If a citizen committed a mistake based on a certain idea, the essential thing is that he has come to his senses, discovered his mistake, and corrected it. Naturally this is very commendable.

The movement has recently suffered very great material losses—losses in lives, arms, ammunition, and equipment. They are such heavy losses that the movement will not be able to compensate for them for a long time to come. The loss of lives is a regrettable thing and can never be a cause for joy. The youth who are dying are the youth of Sudan, and the country is in need of them, their strength, and their intellect to build the country and advance with them along the path of prosperity and progress.

That is why their death is a great loss to Sudan. Garang and his leaders are ready to provide hundreds of deaths every day so that their leadership and their service to the enemies of the country will continue; they would remain unconcerned even if all the sons of the south were to die.

In the Armed Forces we believe that loss of lives is two-fold because, despite the dirty war imposed by Garang and his gang of leaders who are wallowing in the charity of the Abyssynians and the international organizations seeking to undermine Sudan, despite this war, all the fighters in the movement are sons of Sudan.

Most of them were misled into joining the unsuccessful movement. We hope that they will return to their senses, rethink their position, and return to put right the damage which has been done. They will find that all their relatives are awaiting them so that all hands can join together along the path of progress and in the building of Sudan. As for Garang and his myrmidons, they will soon meet their end. God willing, very soon we shall hear of the end of this stooge movement.

Cease-Fire Possible After SPLA London Contacts
LD112120 Khartoum SUNA in English 1723 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 11, (SUNA)—The Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi today addressed the Constituent Assembly on issues of national interests.

The prime minister revealed that contacts with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), which were held in London recently has resulted in an agreement that a cease fire would was possible to reach after the lifting of the state of emergency in the country and that the Islamic rules would not be among the laws to be abrogated along with the Sptember 1983 laws.

The premier revealed that in the recent battles against the rebel in eastern Sudan the Sudanese Armed Forces lost 49 soldiers and that 025 [number as received] others were injured while fourteen others are still missing.

He said the rebels were sustained 566 deaths and 1500 injured and that numbers of rebels were held as prisoners. [sentence as received]

Tunisia

Al-Qadhdhafi Expected To Arrive 16 Jan
NC081548 Paris AFP in English 1537 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] Tunis, Jan 8 (AFP)—Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is to visit Tunisia on January 16 following the resumption of diplomatic relations on December 28 after a two-year break, informed Tunisian sources said here Friday.

Arab diplomatic sources said Libya will on March 19 adhere to a friendship treaty linking Tunisia with Algeria and Mauritania since 1983.

The four countries, with Morocco, comprise the Maghreb, the Arabic term for northwest Africa, and the Tunisian leadership in particular is keen for the closest cooperation with them all.

Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid is meanwhile expected here on Sunday for a few hours, the first visit by a head of state since Premier Zine El Abidine Ben Ali deposed the aging Habib Bourguiba and took over the presidency in November.

Algerian President Bendjedid Arrives on Visit
LD101637 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Text] Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Algerian Republic, arrived in Tunis this evening on a friendly and working visit. He was welcomed on arrival by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at Tunis-Carthage International Airport.

Makes Statement
LD102053 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Text] The president of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic and the FLN secretary general His Excellency Chadli Bendjedid this evening arrived in Tunis on a 2-day friendly and working visit. His excellency the president of the Republic, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, led those who assembled to welcome Tunisia's esteemed guest at Tunis-Carthage International Airport. The Algerian guest was also welcomed at the airliner's stairs by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche; Slaheddine Baly, minister of state for national defense; Mohamed Ali Boulaman, mayor of the city of Tunis; and Abbas Mohsen, governor-chairman of the municipal council of Tunis

At the VIP lounge at Tunis-Carthage International Airport, President Chadli Bendjedid made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Bendjedid] I would like before anything else to thank my brother President Zine El Abidine for giving me this opportunity to visit fraternal Tunisia. My visit is nothing new as it is within the traditions of both countries and peoples—we visit each other and exchange views regarding issues concerning our Arab Maghreb area, as well as issues concerning the Arab nation and the questions preoccupying both countries.

In actual fact what has happened in Tunisia is something which concerns the Tunisian people whom we know have reached political maturity. Internal issues in Tunisia concern Tunisian officials and people. We build our relations through the two states and peoples. As individuals, we will sooner or later depart this world, but the peoples and the states will remain, and in particular that which links Tunisia and Algeria and the Tunisian and Algerian peoples is something great and historic. We struggled together and fought together and achieved independence together.

Today we place our hands in the hands of each other—that is the two peoples—so that we will march forward for the sake of progress and the development of our two countries and peoples. This is the duty of the officials of both countries. Naturally my visit perhaps has another characteristic—which is very important as a result of the changes which today we are aware of in our Arab Maghreb. I believe today that it is inevitable that officials of all the countries of the Arab Maghreb must make more effort, for in the past we used to talk only about the Arab Maghreb. I believe that this slogan has become too worn.

Today we are duty-bound to begin the fieldwork, and the latter inevitably requires a strong will. Thank God, the strong will today exists within the states of the Arab Maghreb. We will exchange views with my brother the president regarding the future of the Arab Maghreb—I will not be talking about bilateral relations, which are in good shape, thank God. We have done a great deal and will do a great deal in the future, God willing, between the two countries within the framework of the Treaty of Fraternity and Concord. I believe today that the circumstances and the inevitability of a common destiny require that we should inevitably begin another step toward the construction of the Arab Maghreb. This requires consultations and an exchange of views about the future of the Arab Maghreb—as people, nation and civilization.

[Unidentified correspondent] May God render you successful and thank you.

[Bendjedid] Thank you.

[Second unidentified correspondent] Mr President, another step toward economic integration?

[Bendjedid] I do not specifically say that, but we in Algeria—I mean as far as Algeria is concerned—specified our views as far as the construction of the Arab Maghreb is concerned. We have—I believe—given it its true concept, taking into account the realities of each country with regard to its own choice of internal affairs, which concern its own people. But there remains a great deal to be done in many fields, not only in the economic sphere but also in many other spheres.

We thank God that we have many great things in common. There is very little to disunite us. In my belief there is nothing to disunite the two countries when there is a strong will. [end recording]

On leaving the VIP lounge the two presidents—Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Chadli Bendjedid—were given a warm reception by the large crowd of people who had assembled to welcome Tunisia's guest, cheering for the long life of Tunisian-Algerian fraternity and carrying the flags of both countries, thus manifesting the firmness of the bonds of fraternity and amity between the two fraternal peoples.

His excellency the president accompanied his guest to the Saada Palace in La Mersa, where President Chadli Bendjedid is staying during his visit to Tunisia.

His excellency the president of the Republic Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and President Chadli Bendjedid held their first round of talks this evening at the Saada Palace in La Mersa, which was attended on the Tunisian side by: Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche; Foreign Affairs Minister Mahmoud Mistiri; Interior Minister Habib Ammar, and Secretary of State for the Presidential Office Abdullah Kelal. On the Algerian side it was attended by: Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the FLN Political Bureau and official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee of the FLN; Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi; Larbi Belkheir, head of the Presidential Office; Interior Minister El Hadi Khdiri; and the Algerian Ambassador to Tunisia Messaoud Ait Chalal.

Holds Talks With Ben Ali

LD111733 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] The official Algerian-Tunisian talks continued this morning at the Republic Palace in Carthage under the chairmanship of Presidents Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Chadli Bendjedid. These talks were attended on the

Tunisian side by Messrs Hedi Baccouche, prime minister; Mahmoud Mestiri, minister of foreign affairs; Habib Ammar, minister of the interior; Slaheddine Ben Mbarak, minister of national economy; Lassad Ben Osman, minister of agriculture; and Abdallah Kallel, secretary of state to the Presidency. On the Algerian side, Messrs Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and head of the FLN Permanent Secretariat; Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, minister of foreign affairs; Arbi Belkheir, director of the Presidential Office; El Hadi Khdiri, minister of the interior; and Messaoud Ait Chalal, Algerian ambassador to Tunis, were present.

Prior to these talks, the two presidents held a private meeting. President Chadli Bendjedid headed directly from Tunis to the Libyan Jamahiriyah on a 2-day visit.

Contents of Talks Outlined

LD112335 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid has concluded a friendly, working visit to fraternal Tunisia after holding deep political talks with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Tunisian Republic, with the participation of the members of the Algerian and Tunisian delegations in an atmosphere filled with warm friendship. The talks covered bilateral relations and the situation in the Arab Maghreb, as well as Arab, African, and international issues.

The two presidents, Chadli Bendjedid and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, expressed their deep satisfaction with the high level and tangible results of bilateral relations.

They also expressed their satisfaction with the political dialogue and consultations existing between the leaderships of the two countries, either at the level of parties or governments.

President Chadli Bendjedid and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali gave directives with the aim of intensifying, deepening, and expanding cooperation, to include all fields, particularly those of agriculture, the development of border areas, the freedom of movement of people and properties, and the exchange of agricultural products.

The Algerian and Tunisian sides expressed their satisfaction with the positive developments that have been witnessed lately by the Maghrebian arena, particularly the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two fraternal countries Tunisia and Libya. The two sides consider that this undoubtedly will contribute to giving a new impetus to Maghrebian unionist action. In this context, the two sides expressed their will to contribute to seeking a just and durable solution to the conflict of Western Sahara, in accordance with the OAU and UN resolutions to achieve the mobilization of all Maghrebian resources to work for development and progress.

The two sides decided to work for the achievement of stability in the region and the rapid building of the edifice of a nonaligned great Arab Maghreb that is able to face the challenges imposed today by the large political and economic groupings and blocs being formed throughout the world.

The two presidents, Chadli Bendjedid and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, gave particular importance to the situation of the Maghrebian workers in Europe and agreed to coordinate their action in order to protect their security and pride.

The two sides studied the present situation in the Arab world in light of the positive results of the Amman summit and expressed their total solidarity with the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories in their general uprising against the Zionist occupation and its repressive practices. The Algerian and Tunisian sides hailed the spirit of struggle and the heroic resistance of the Palestinian people in their struggle for the sake of regaining their national rights, which must be crowned with the establishment of an independent state on Palestinian national territory.

The two sides reaffirmed their support for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East, with the participation of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The two sides reiterated their solidarity and support for the peoples of Namibia and South Africa in their struggle against apartheid and for the sake of pride and independence.

The two presidents, Chadli Bendjedid and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, recorded with satisfaction the disarmament agreement that was signed lately between the Soviet Union and the United States and expressed the hope that this first step toward international detente would result in good consequences with regard to the conflicts from which the Third World is suffering and open up opportunities for improving the economic situation for the developing countries.

We would not neglect to mention that the friendly, working visit President Chadli Bendjedid paid to fraternal Tunisia took place at the invitation of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali after the peaceful changes that took place in Tunisia on 7 November 1987 in accordance with Destourian legitimacy and the people's aspirations, which come within the framework of safeguarding the sovereignty and independence of Tunisia with the creation of conditions for stability and progress in the country.

The visit of the Algeiran presidential delegation to fraternal Tunisia came about within the framework of the untiring efforts made by Algeria and Tunisia to strengthen the distinguished relations of cooperation existing between the two countries in accordance with the political will of the two leaderships, which is set out in the fraternity and concord treaty and the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples toward the achievement of economic, cultural, and social integration, as well as the establishment of political coordination aimed at laying down strong foundations for the building of the great Arab Maghreb.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD111740 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The friendship and working visit to Tunisia by President Chadli Bendjedid of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria lasted for 2 days. His visit, during which he held a series of talks with his brother, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, has concluded.

President Bendjedid left Tunis-Carthage International Airport at 1430. His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was present at the departure ceremony for President Chadli Bendjedid. The latter was accompanied by the president of the state from Es-Saada Palace in La Marsa to the Tunis-Carthage International Airport. Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche was also present at the departure of the honored guest from Tunisia and the delegation accompanying him. [passage omitted]

French Foreign Minister Raimond Arrives 9 Jan

AU091531 Paris AFP in English 1100 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Tunis, Jan 9 (AFP)—French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond arrived here Saturday for the first visit by a French official since Zine El Abidine Ben Ali became president here on November 7 by deposing President-for-life Habib Bourguiba

Mr. Raimond will hold talks with his Tunisian counterpart Mahmoud Mestiri and Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche. He will also meet President Ben Ali before leaving Tunis later Saturday.

His visit will also allow preparation of a visit to Paris by Mr. Baccouche on January 15-16.

Holds Talks With Ben Ali

LD091416 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Mr Jean-Bernard Raimond, French Foreign minister, in a statement which he made after he was received by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage before noon today, stated that his talks with the head of state had covered the relations of friendship and cooperation existing between Tunisia and France and that his visit comes within the framework of these traditional ties. He pointed out that he had reviewed, a number of bilateral and international issues with his excellency the president. He also mentioned that his visit to Tunisia comes within the framework of preparing for the visit which Mr. Hedi Baccouche is to pay to France shortly.

The French guest also had talks with the Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche this morning.

Mr. Jean-Bernard Raimond arrived in Tunisia this morning on a short working visit during which he is to discuss ways to develop bilateral relations with Tunisian officials.

The French minister also stated that the importance of the visit lies in its spirit, which reflects the sincere feeling that the government and people of France have for the government and people of Tunisia.

The French foreign minister announced that he had a message of support and friendship from the French Government for the new leadership in Tunisia.

Mr Jean-Bernard Raimond added that since 7 November Tunisia has begun a brilliant renewal which the French Government supports and has sympathy for.

In a statement which was issued in Paris today, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed that this visit aims primarily at expressing to the new leadership in Tunisia the warmest feelings of friendship and consideration of the government and the people of France. The statement also said that Mr Jean-Bernard Raimond is to inform Tunisian officials that the French Government hopes to strengthen the ties of trust and cooperation which have come to characterize relations between the two countries.

Comments on Talks, Relations

LD091844 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] At noon today in the republican palace at Carthage, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met with Jean Bernard Raimond, French foreign minister, in the presence of Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri.

Following the meeting, also attended by Jean Bressot and the French ambassador to Tunisia, Jean-Bernard Raimond expressed his pleasure at being the first French Government member to visit Tunisia since the 7 November developments and at the great honor he received in being met by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. He expressed his belief that this first official contact with the new Tunisia reflects the pleasure of the French Government which he represents. He added: We are extremely happy to familiarize ourselves with the renovation policy pursued by the Tunisian Government.

He recalled the traditional ties of friendship and cooperation between France and Tunisia, pointing out that his current visit falls within the framework of bolstering this friendship and cooperation. He pointed out that he conveyed to the Tunisian president two verbal message from President Francois Mitterrand and French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

Jean-Bernard Raimond said that he will be having talks with his Tunisian counterpart, Mahmoud Mestiri, and continue the exchanges of views begun with the president and the prime minister. He pointed out that the talks will cover in particular bilateral matters, the international situation, East-West issues, and the various aspects of the situation in the Middle and Near East. He affirmed that he will seize this occasion to prepare for Baccouche's visit to Paris which will take place on 15 January at the invitation of Jacques Chirac. He described the visit as extremely important, adding that it will affirm symbolicly and tangibly the continued policy of friendship and cooperation which bind us to Tunisia and particularly to the new Tunisia.

Jean-Bernard Raimond noted the priority which the current French Government has given since its assumption of office to its relations with the countries of the Arab Maghreb and particularly with Tunisia.

Hedi Baccouche this afternoon had talks with Jean-Bernard Raimond in the presence of Mahmoud Mestiri and French Ambassador to Tunisia Jean Brissot.

Meets Journalists, Departs

LD092011 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond left Tunisia this evening. Before leaving, he met with journalists, with whom he reviewed the results of his talks with Tunisian officials. He pointed out that Tunisian-French relations were not marred by any clouds.

Report on President Ben Ali's Press Statement

LD101436 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
0600 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali made a press statement to APS in which he dealt with a number of issues concerning the new era in Tunisia, the building of the Arab Maghreb, Tunisian-Algerian relations, and the presence of the headquarters of the Arab League and of the PLO in Tunis.

Regarding the new era in Tunisia, the president said that since 7 November Tunisia has entered a new era which our people have been longing for. They have always aspired to better participation in governing the country's affairs through constitutional institutions. The principles contained in the 7 November 1987 declaration and the many decisions adopted to implement these principles are within that context.

This proves our firm intention to establish a state of law and to restore respect for this state, providing all Tunisians especially the youth with the conditions and guarantees for living in an atmosphere of dignity, harmony, discipline, and national solidarity. The change which took place in Tunisia has brought the state and the nation together by bringing the public image closer to the citizen and by being continuously interested in his preoccupations.

In this way we aim to consolidate the national effort and to provide all the necessary conditions for constructing an advanced, balanced, and prosperous society. In addition to this, all the measures adopted during the first 2 months of this new era have stemmed from our eagerness to be at the service of the Tunisian citizen whom we would like to be responsible, in solidarity with his brothers and neighbors, and committed to Arab and Islamic values.

Regarding the future action of the Destourian Socialist Party, the head of state said that it may be helpful to recall that the Destourian Socialist Party, like the FLN with which it has ties of struggle, led the country to independence, established the basis of a modern state, and led Tunisia on to the path of comprehensive development.

Today, this party continues to play a vanguard role in the political, economic, and social life of the country. It is determined to remain the melting pot in which all the homeland's living forces will meld, and also to be a vanguard party open to all sincere forces, especially the youth, and an asset for the change which began in the country on 7 November.

The head of state then talked about the construction of the Arab Maghreb. He said in particular that the greater Arab Maghreb is an objective stipulated by the Tunisian Constitution, and Tunisia has doubled its efforts to help reach this objective since 7 November. This can be seen in the many visits paid by senior Tunisian officials to the various Arab Maghreb countries. We feel that our brothers in the other Maghreb countries are also convinced that it is now time for new steps toward achieving this aspiration which has been longed for by generations in the Arab Maghreb.

We have recorded with pleasure the sincere will of all our countries to deepen the dialogue, to consolidate cooperation, clearing the general atmosphere of the relations between the Maghreb countries in order to rid our region of everything that might obstruct the construction of the Arab Maghreb. We believe that President Chadli Bendjedid's visit to Tunisia and the normalization of relations between Tunisia and Libya are a part of this process. Tunisia attaches great importance to this visit which we hope will lead to tangible results toward the construction of the greater Arab Maghreb.

As for the accord on fraternity and concord, the president said Tunisia regards the accord as an important stage on the path toward building the greater Arab Maghreb. Since signing the accord, the three countries have realized substantial achievements in all fields. We are convinced that the accord opens broader horizons for the future of the three countries, Tunisia, Algeria, and Mauritania, the current members, and also for the future of the rest of our region's countries.

He talked about Tunisian-Algerian relations and said relations between Tunisia and Algeria cover all aspects which have, in general, seen an homogeneous and positive development since the independence of the two countries. This cooperation has definitely recorded tangible and very considerable results, in spite of the fact that we have not yet reached the maximum of our abilities in this field.

As for political consultation, it is a continuing process between Tunisia and Algeria because it is essential for our mutual views on the future of our region and international relations in general. For its part, Tunisia will not spare any efforts to march forward toward developing its political cooperation and consultations with Algeria and also with the other fraternal Maghreb countries.

Finally, and in reply to a question on the presence of the Arab League headquarters and the PLO in Tunisia, the president said that accommodating the headquarters of the Arab League and the PLO in Tunisia was a result of Tunisia's attachment to its Arab identity and its deep commitment to Arab issues, especially the Palestinian issue.

Tunisia considers that all our countries should contribute to preserving the credibility of the Arab League, which is the backbone of all the institutions which were created for coordinating joint Arab action and Arab solidarity. We also believe that it is the duty of all all of us to redouble our efforts, through the league and through bilateral contacts, toward clearing Arab relations in order to exploit all our means for the benefit of our peoples and for facing up to the challenges which confront the Arab nation.

Kuwait

Further on Visit by Egypt's Husni Mubarak

More on Arrival

LD111300 Kuwait KUNA in English 1035 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 11 (KUNA)—President Husni Mubarak of Egypt arrived in Kuwait Monday on the third leg of a Gulf tour which took him in the past two days to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Mubarak was greeted at the airport by his highness the amir of Kuwait, His Highness Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, Commander of the National Guards Shaykh Salim al-'Ali, and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

Kuwaiti Government ministers and head of diplomatic missions also took part in welcoming the Egyptian president.

Mubarak is accompanied by Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, government officials and a press team.

Kuwaiti Minister of Public Health Dr. 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadi is heading the mission of honour that will accompany the Egyptian president during his visit here.

In Abu Dhabi, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister of Egypt Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid told KUNA Mubarak's world tour is designed to demonstrate Egypt's readiness to join hands with the Gulf states in defending the region.

'Abd al-Majid, who is accompanying Mubarak in his tour of the six Gulf Cooperation Council states, said the issues that will be raised are inter-related and are primarily concerned with achieving peace, security and stability and cooperation between the GCC and Egypt.

The tour is further aimed at reaching a possible consensus to counter the challenges facing the entire Arab nation, the Egyptian minister assured KUNA.

"We intend to listen to our Kuwaiti brothers and consult with them on all issues in hand in the higher interest of the Arab nation in addition to that of Kuwait and Egypt," Dr. al-Majid said.

Visited by Prime Minister

LD111536 Kuwait KUNA in English 1450 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 11 (KUNA)—H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah called at 4 p.m. today on visiting Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at his residence at Al-Salam Palace here. The audience was attended by head of the honorary mission and Minister of Public Health Dr 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadi.

Talks With Amir

LD111730 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] A round of official talks was held at 1800 this evening between the amir of Kuwait and His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Amiri Court Affairs Minister Shaykh Khalid al-Ahmad al-Jabir said the talks focused on bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries and ways of developing them in all fields, in addition to developments in the Iraq-Iran war, the Palestinian uprising in occupied Arab territories, and issues of mutual concern. A friendly atmosphere prevailed during the talks, distinguished by understanding and brotherly spirit.

Holds News Conference

NC112214 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 2041 GMT 11 Jan 88

[News conference held by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Kuwait on 11 January—recorded]

[Text] [Mubarak] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. I am very happy indeed to be visiting a friendly state which is dear to us all in Egypt: the state of Kuwait. Kuwait has had strong and firm relations with Egypt in many varied areas for a long time. Consequently, it is a pleasure to come to this friendly country and see the journalists and media officials, although I have already met some of them in Cairo. There is nothing strange about this. However, when I was asked to attend this meeting I was given a very short time to answer as many of your queries and questions as possible. In order to waste no time, I invite your questions.

[Question indistinct]

[Mubarak] You know that Egypt has never tarried at any stage since the Palestinian issue began. It has not tarried in supporting a correct and just solution of this problem. It shouldered its responsibility in cooperation with its brothers in the Arab nation. The current uprising is an expression of wrath against fearful conditions. It expresses wrath against many things. I do not want to speak in detail about all the causes of this anger, which are many. However, the Palestinian people feel bitter because they exist under the yoke of occupation. We in Egypt have resorted to all possible means and methods to ease the impact of this situation. There can be no resolution of the situation without a settlemnt of the Palestinian issue. A settlement will solve the problems of these people who are groaning under their burdens.

We reached an agreement, which former Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres announced, to submit the issue to an international conference. We agreed to settle the matter within the framework of an international conference. The prime minister who succeeded him rejected the idea of such a conference.

In addition to the incumbent Israeli prime minister's rejection of the international conference, we have a problem among ourselves. It involves the question of Palestinian representation. You know that Israel refuses to have the PLO act as the representative. Does this refusal mean we should keep silent and let the issue die? No. There is a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. I wish our PLO brothers would find a way of settling the matter of Palestinian representation so there may be no excuse for not convening an international conference. If you want an international conference to convene, then agree among yourselves. We must agree among ourselves. Our brothers in the PLO must reach accord with our brother King Husayn of Jordan on the question of Palestinian representation. They had made good progress in this regard. I do not know what happened later to cause a setback in this respect.

[Question indistinct]

[Mubarak] As regards the first question, in which you say I have declared Gulf security to be Egypt's security and vice versa, this is a fact. If, God forbid, there should be a threat, and the threat varies in degree, requiring greater preparation, I believe it is impossible to go into details in the pages of newspapers or in the media generally. But I would like to say we have an understanding with our brothers here, his highness the amir and our brother his highness the heir apparent, and the other brothers in the Gulf. They are fully aware of what our stand is and of what can we do in this regard. You may rest assured on this point. However, I cannot say any more; this is a matter that I cannot talk about alone.

As for a naval force, when did you hear this? Was it today?

[Indistinct remark by unidentified reporter]

[Mubarak] Don't get angry. Sometimes the papers write something [word indistinct] they hear a rumor, or someone fabricates a particular topic to try to obtain information. But when the facts are spelled out they will attack. Nevertheless, if there is something of the sort I will not say anything. [laughter]

[Question indistinct]

[Mubarak] Generally speaking, I spoke about this to my brother His Highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir, who is a friend. I have known him well since he was the heir apparent and I have great confidence in him. Naturally, when we meet with my brother his highness the amir, we discuss many of the issues of the hour, current topics. We discussed the question of the Gulf in detail. We also dealt with the Palestinian issue and certain other Arab matters that concern all of us. This is in addition to bilateral relations. I do not have the right to go into the details of these issues.

[Mubarak] It seems from your question that you have read my answer somewhere today. [laughter] Or perhaps you do not read the papers. I said that we are accused of violating the Camp David agreement, despite its sensitivities. However, I tell them [the Israelis] that it is they and not we who violated the agreement. First, the current Israeli prime minister neither approved nor voted in favor of Camp David. He will not vote in favor of the peace process. As long as you do not approve it, do not say I am violating it. You should not make (?unjustified) allegations.

Second, I also said that you are violating it. The annexation of the Golan runs counter to Camp David. This issue is something that is under discusion; you should not go ahead and annex land without any discussion. Furthermore, Israel has no right to consider Jerusalem as its capital while there are ongoing talks and this is something that was stipulated in the Camp David agreement. I say Israel has violated Camp David.

As regards the question of normalization and other matters, I wonder what they mean by normalization. Should there be normal relations or should we implement agreements that were concluded with them? I have signed agreements with all countries in the world, or 90 percent of them—agreements on payments and other matters, including tourism. Does this mean I am implementing all such agreements? I do not believe that your money and ours would be enough to put all these agreements into effect. For example, I signed agreements with 80 or 90 countries to import sugar. Does this mean I should implement all these agreements and import sugar? But what shall I do with all this sugar? Too much sugar causes diseases. Why should I stockpile all this sugar?

Therefore, we treat our agreements with them the same way as we treat our agreements with any other country in the world. We do not favor one country over another. If I need goods from Israel and I find that the quality of these goods is excellent and the price is less than that of goods from elsewhere, I will buy them because if I do not, I will have to purchase them through middlemen in Italy or Cyprus or elsewhere. But no one can force me to buy from anyone. Can someone force you to buy a suit from a certain shop? I have hundreds of shops and I buy from the shop which has better quality and lower price.

Concerning the issue of normalization, this is just something they like to talk about. Let them say what they like. I take no notice of it.

[Question indistinct]

[Mubarak] I want to tell you something new. Our arms industry requires continuous modification to keep pace with the times and with prevailing conditions. We are modifying our arms continuously. We have gained experience in this field since the October 1973 war. We adapted many types of weapons, of both Eastern and Western origin, during the time from June 1967 to 1973. We even modified them for the producing states themselves. We have the right to do so. We made modifications for the better, in a way compatible with the conditions of our (?Army) in Egypt and the Arab states. The modification of arms is a continuous process.

I believe everyone who visited our exhibition in Cairo, where everything was available, must have seen the progress we have made in the arms industry. Our arms industry does not belong to us alone; it belongs to all our Arab brothers. Egypt will not hesitate to supply these arms to any state which may, God forbid, need them to avert any danger.

[Question indistinct]

[Mubarak] Regarding your first question on reconciling the PLO and our brothers in the fraternal state of Jordan, the truth is that we spare no effort to reconcile the PLO and my brother His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, so we may be able to reach a solution to the complicated Palestinian problem. We and some of our brothers in the Arab states are doing all we can to bring about an agreement between them and to find a solution to the problem of Palestinian representation. Otherwise, the time will come when Israel will say: We agree to an international conference. Show us what you can do, but the fact is that you do not want to agree among yourselves. We will then become caught up in a new vicious circle. If we do not agree, the issue will die one day.

Our efforts will continue. Our efforts with the PLO must continue. We do not hesitate in this regard at all because we have undertaken a great responsibility in this matter.

Regarding my anticipated visit to the United States and European countries, let me say at our meetings with various states we always explain all the circumstances and factors affecting issues such as the Gulf war and the Palestinian question. We also explain our views on these matters and what we see as the way to handle them. In addition, we support any methods, specific facilities, or propsoals which our Arab brothers may put forward and we explain viewpoints as fully as possible. In so doing, we hope to influence European and U.S. public opinion in support of our present stand on the Gulf war, which is draining the people's resources, lowering their standard of living, and harming their economic position. This is about all and I hope we will be able to convince the brothers in the European countries and explain this issue to the U.S. Congress and Administration.

[Question indistinct]

[Mubarak] Indeed, the Amman summit was an excellent step in the efforts to unite the Arabs. You might have heard me often, perhaps in AL-SIYASAH and AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, appealing to the Arabs and saying: Unite, agree among yourselves, and solve the problems because we will be the losers in the end if you do not do so. I was happy with the Amman summit and I would have been happier still if there had been full reconciliation among all the Arab brothers.

For my part, I have been and am still trying to achieve such a reconciliation. I did not despair and I am even trying to reach a reconciliation with our brothers in Syria. I have no specific demands to make of Syria, but in the interests of the Arabs I am seeking reconciliation. There is no reason for us to be antagonistic and turn our backs on each other for unjustifiable reasons. When we turn our backs on each other, we lose a great deal and create a poor impression in the world. We will not earn the respect of the world if we act like this.

The Islamic summit was held here. I believe you know what happened. I was anxious not to further complicate the problems out of my respect for the amir of Kuwait, the summit's president, and out of my respect for the 45 heads of state, kings, and amirs who attended the summit. I also did not want it to appear that members of the Arab nation were attacking each other at an Islamic conference. We avoided this. I believe that since then some of you have heard and read reports in the papers that certain meetings took place. There have been absolutely no meetings between us and Syria. All that has been said in this regard is mere speculation.

[Question] Even after the Amman summit?

[Mubarak] Even after the Amman summit. This is the truth. I am hiding nothing behind this frank talk. If I were hiding something, I would say: There is something, but I cannot tell you about it. But we are concealing absolutely nothing.

[Question indistinct]

[Mubarak] Ask Dr Usamah al-Baz and ask Syria. Why should we hide such a thing? Had he truly gone to Syria, I would say he had done so. Why should we be afraid to talk about it? He did not go to Syria and there has been no contact. Every (?problem) has a solution. (?We do not need) Syria. This is indeed painful. Please excuse me for not elaborating on this topic because I find it painful that we in our capacity as Arab countries are antagonizing each other and turning our backs on each other to the detriment of the public interest. This is not right. When we agree, we will be in a stronger and better position to serve the public interest of all the Arab states, large and small.

[Question indistinct]

[Mubarak] Several steps have been taken regarding the private sector, involving not only Kuwaiti and Gulf private sector investments, but the Egyptian private sector as well. If no steps are taken to encourage the Egyptian private sector, it will still invest its money in its own country. This is natural, although we know that capital is a coward. However, we have removed many obstacles, as shown by the fact that many people from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and, I believe, Kuwait have invested in many fields in Egypt.

To encourage the private sector, we are continuously removing the obstacls that we come across. I will not deny there are obstacles, but we are eliminating them. They spoke about the exchange rates and we responded by amending the rates. We are reforming the economy. There have been many achievements in the recent short period. We still have some way to go before we reach conditions conducive to the further encouragement of investments in Egypt.

I know that you will tell me about the purchase of real estate and land. This is an issue which we will resolve shortly, God willing.

[Question indistinct]

[Mubarak] I am afraid that my answer to your question might make you angry. You must have heard my speech at the Egyptian People's Assembly. The speech of the head of state at the People's Assembly is an official document usually retained by the Assembly. I think I said in my speech, although I did not have to say it, that we are committed to the Collective Arab Defense Pact. There is no contradiction between this peace treaty and Camp David. Camp David has nothing to do with this. It is only a framework. If you want me to explain further and say what the Camp David agreement is, I will say that it has two parts.

The first part is over and done with. It involved the Egyptian-Israeli issue; we concluded a peace treaty and regained our land. The second part pertains to the solution of all aspects of the Palestinian problem. When Israel changed the spirit of Camp David with regard to the framework of the second part—that is, the guidelines within which we could solve the issue and according to which we achieved the treaty—and started maneuvering when it came to the discussions of the second part, this part was frozen. Camp David is a framework. It does not imply commitment toward anything.

One of the articles of the peace treaty, I think it is the second, refers to Article 51 of the UN Charter on the right of legitimate collective defense. Therefore, anything that comes after that refers to this, so there is no such thing as one commitment taking precedence over another, as they tried to stipulate in the treaty at the beginning and which we rejected. There is no such thing as priority of commitments. This article about which some people are talking quite definitely does not take precedence over any other treaty and there is no contradiction between them. I believe this was comprehensively explained in one of the Kuwaiti newspapers. [words indistinct]

They say Egypt is not implementing the Collective Defense Pact. This is not true [words indistinct] the Collective Defense Pact includes some 10 or 12 articles and none of these articles is implemented these days. No one is implementing them. Furthermore, if there is to be any assistance there must be plans and agreements. The chiefs of staff of the Arab countries should meet and study the possibility of certain situations and see what they can do. All the Arab countries should meet to see what kind of assistance they should give in terms of finance, military help, troops, artillery, and rockets. None of this is being done.

Frankly speaking, this pact is no more than ink on paper. But even if there were no treaty, and any Arab state found itself in a difficult situation and we had the capabilities to assist, we would not hesitate to do so. This emanates from our Arabism and our love and appreciation for and ties with all the Arab countries. [words indistinct] Why do you not ask those who give missiles to Iran to hit Iraq? [words indistinct]

Leaves for Doha

LD120937 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0814 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak left here this morning after a 2-day visit to Kuwait and another round of talks with Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait. During the visit, President Mubarak had talks with Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah on "recent developments in the Gulf and the Palestinian situation and bilateral relations."

He headed for Doha on a visit to Qatar within his Gulf tour which he started with visits to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait.

Qatar

Mubarak Arrives for 2-Day 'Official Visit'

LD121025 Kuwait KUNA in English 0927 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] Doha, Jan 12 (KUNA)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak Tuesday arrived here from Kuwait for a two-day official visit to Qatar, on the fourth leg of his current tour to GCC member states. Radio Qatar said that the amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani received Mubarak at the airport.

Saudi Arabia

Egypt's Mubarak Holds Riyadh News Conference

NC100925 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0804 GMT 10 Jan 88

[News conference held by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak with Saudi and Egyptian newsmen in Riyadh on 10 January—recorded]

[Text] [Mubarak] His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz is a brother and a friend. We have had a fraternal relationship since I assumed the post of president of the Arab Republic of Egypt. We have a constant, ongoing dialogue. Indeed, our meeting yesterday was not merely a dialogue, for the dialogue between me and his majesty the king has been continuing for a long time. It did not stop, not even in the so-called period of cool relations. I do not consider it as such, for exchanges between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt continued during that period. The two peoples cannot be separated.

The talks between me and my brother, His Majesty King Fahd, yesterday, revolved around all existing regional problems and international issues. We also touched on bilateral and Arab relations. We held a general discussion on all of these issues.

[Reporter] How can we assess the moves which Egypt has made after the Amman summit?

[Mubarak] In fact, Egyptian moves were not at a standstill prior to the Amman conference. I met with all the brothers face-to-face last January during the ICO conference. Even before those meetings, there were constant communications between me and the Arab brothers. These never stopped. As regards our moves after the Amman summit, perhaps there have been more frequent direct meetings and a more active dealing with the issues. There will be more active cooperation and coordination. Coordination never stopped, really. However, we must point out it will become even more active.

[Reporter] What are the prospects for Egyptian-Arab cooperation, particularly with regard to the developments in the Gulf war? How does Egypt think these developments should be confronted?

[Mubarak] I want to say the following. When speaking of the manner in which we will confront these developments, I want to state this issue cannot be discussed openly with the press. However, this war is dangerous. I exhort our Iranian brothers and tell them it is imperative for them to respond to the call for peace because the developments will affect not only the Arabs but certainly the Iranians as well. For this reason, I hope they will respond to the call for peace. This would be better than pursuing the course of war.

[Reporter] What would Egypt's role be in the event they do not respond to the call for peace?

[Mubarak] Egypt is an Arab country. It expresses solidarity with its Arab brothers. This region's security is linked to Egypt's security. Egypt will never abandon its support for its sister countries in the security sphere under any circumstances. As to the method, I do not think we can speak about this matter here.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, your stand on the popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and your support for this uprising on the popular and leadership levels were splendid. How do you envisage the future of this uprising with respect to the arbitrary Israeli acts?

[Mubarak] I want to say this uprising is sounding the alarm over the current deadlock in the process of finding a solution to the Palestinian issue. Our talk about the Palestinian issue is focused on an international conference. My brother, His Majesty King Husayn, is active in this regard. Our brothers here, my brother, His Majesty King Fahd, and all of the Arab brothers, are making strenuous efforts to convene an international conference. In December 1986 the Israeli prime minister at the time, Shim'on Peres, approved the convening of an international conference.

I was naturally taken aback when the new [Israeli] prime minister rejected such a conference. However, we have agreed with a government and not with individuals. We think there should be principles when dealing with a government. As long as we have agreed on principles, we must implement them. This is a state policy and should not be changed by a new government.

The Israeli prime minister's rejection or fear of an international conference has dismayed me. There are issues that must be discussed. He says all discussions should be based on Camp David. The truth is that the Israeli prime minister has violated Camp David. The annexation of the Golan was a violation of Camp David, as was the proclamation of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. He should not accuse us of violating Camp David when he was the first to violate it. If he wants the discussions to be held on the basis of Camp David, then he should cancel the annexation of the Golan. He should also cancel the proclamation of Jerusalem as Israel's capital because Camp David stipulates that the issue of Jerusalem should be discussed.

[Reporter] In your discussions with the custodian of the two holy mosques, did you touch on economic issues and economic cooperation between the Kingdom and Egypt?

[Mubarak] We will discuss many issues.

[Reporter] Your ambassador [to Israel], Muhammad Basyuni, has said if Israel continues its present policy, there is a chance Egypt will sever or freeze its ties with Israel.

[Mubarak] This is not an easy matter to decide. However, I would like to say one thing: If severing ties would resolve the issue, then it is a good thing. But, if it would complicate the case, we should think of other means. Severing ties would mean there would be no [Egyptian] ambassador in Israel. As a result, any messages intended for Israel to calm down the situation or to resolve specific problems will have to go through a third party. Is this practical? No.

Israel wishes to sever ties now so its voice will be the only one heard in the United States. Frankly speaking, we do not want to give Israel this chance because logic governs us.

[Reporter] You will visit the United States following your current tour of the Gulf. It is being reported that you have prepared an Arab paper for negotiations on Middle East issues. Would you like to comment on news agencies' reports to this effect?

[Mubarak] The news agencies have the right to say what they want. We are doing what we believe is right.

[Reporter] Mr President, when you say Gulf security is interwined with Egyptian security, is this only applicable to the Iranian threat?

[Mubarak] Is Gulf security divisible? Gulf security is always one and the same thing. Any threat to that security, whether Iranian or otherwise, must be seen as a threat. Any threat to the Gulf is a threat to Egypt.

[Reporter] Did you [and Saudi officials] discuss the issue of Arab military industry?

[Mubarak] We have not yet talked about that, but I do not foresee any problems with regard to this issue. Our military industry is doing well and any other party which wants to cooperate with us in this respect is welcome. Let us all cooperate. This is a matter of general Arab interest.

[Reporter] Does Egypt favor the Soviet Union's call for the formation of an international force to protect the security and stability of the Gulf?

[Mubarak] We have no objection to the formation of an international force if this will safeguard international shipping. What matters is that international shipping should not be obstructed. The manner in which this shipping is provided the needed protection is not important.

[Reporter] Mr President, certain radios have been reporting, even on the day you arrived in Riyadh, that Egypt has extended military assistance to Gulf countries. How much truth is there in such reports?

[Mubarak] It is alright, let the radios say what they want. They like to invent the news and this does not bother us. The radios have carried reports about an Egyptian-Syrian meeting and an Egyptian-Iranian meeting. Such meetings did not take place. We never hold meetings in secret. All of our meetings are held in public.

[Reporter] Will Saudi Arabia renew its efforts to mediate between Egypt and Syria?

[Mubarak, laughing] Did you make up this or do you know something?

[Reporter] I am only asking, Your Excellency. His majesty the king has good relations with both sides.

[Mubarak] Truly, the king never hesitates to mediate or to resolve problems. We do not have any trouble with Syria in the true sense of the word.

[Reporter] Have you extended an invitation to the custodian of the two holy mosques to visit Egypt?

[Mubarak] Certainly, I have extended an invitation to the custodian of the two holy mosques to visit Egypt. He promised to make such a visit in the near future. Indeed, there is no need for invitations between us, either from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia or from Egypt. There is no need for an invitation. When I come here, I do not need an invitation and when his majesty the king visits Egypt, he needs no invitation. It is his country.

[Reporter] What role can Egypt play with regard to the Lebanese crisis?

[Mubarak] Indeed, Egypt is playing a major role in the Lebanese crisis. We are doing what we can in cooperation with our brothers in all the Arab countries. However, we cannot disclose what we are doing.

[Reporter] Your Excellency Mr President, it has been said Egypt has an important role to play in reviving the suspended Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and in restoring the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. How far have you succeeded in that endeavor?

[Mubarak] Indeed, we were happy when Jordan and the PLO reached that agreement. It was a promising start and would have helped to prevent any objections from being raised with regard to the convening of an international conference. However, there was a disagreement and the issue was frozen. I would like to state it does not serve our case when we have disagreements and when the world tells us that when you reach agreement among yourselves we will see what can be done. The result has been that Shamir said no to the international conference. The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement must be maintained. I appeal to the PLO to think logically so we may be able to resolve the issue.

[Reporter] Your Excellency Mr President, a short time ago, Your Excellency inaugurated an important project in an area to the west of Al-Nubariyah [in Egypt] which had been set up by some Saudi citizens. At that time, Your Excellency issued instructions granting more facilities to Arab and foreign investors. Can we say there will be further facilities for the Arab brothers to invest in Egypt?

[Mubarak] The Arab brothers are exactly that. The fraternity is there. One of our prime concerns is to grant facilities to them and to remove obstacles. I believe numerous obstacles have been removed in the recent past. The proof is that there are investors from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait. Had they not observed the gradual removal of the obstacles, none of them would have invested. In a new town on the Cairo-Alexandria road, called Al-Sadat City, I met some UAE investors who were working in certain industries. I was happy. I was even astonished and wondered what had prompted them to invest in a desert area. Investing opportunities and facilities are available. Obstacles will be removed for all investments, Egyptian or Arab. We consider Egyptians and other Arabs to be all the same. There is no difference among them.

[Reporter] Are you hopeful Egypt will return to the Arab League after the restoration of diplomatic relations?

[Mubarak] Let us not discuss this issue. I usually speak frankly, but I do not wish to speak frankly about this issue so as not to anger anyone.

[Reporter] I believe that according to your itinerary you will be honored by performing the minor pilgrimage and visiting the holy mosque at the end of your Arab-Gulf tour...

[Mubarak, interrupting] God willing.

[Reporter] Will your visit to the two holy mosques represent gratitude for the good results produced by this tour?

[Mubarak] When I visit and perform the minor pilgrimage, I do so not to thank God for this tour, but to praise God for all the blessings and Arab accord. Arab accord is more important than the results of a tour. Arab solidarity and unity are the most important thing. Therefore, what concerns me most is that there should not be any differences among Arabs. Arabs should have a unified stand that will give all of them strength to fend off all dangers.

[Reporter] Do you have any statements to make at the end of this visit?

[Mubarak] I wish the Arab people continued love and amity. I hope good relations will continue, that differences will keep away from us, that we will put an end to the plotters against the Arab nation, and that those who threaten the Arab nation will be convinced that that nation is fully capable of warding off the dangers through a unity of stands on various issues.

[Reporters] Thank you, Your Excellency.

King Chairs Council of Ministers Session

LD111943 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1550 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Riyadh 22 (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Saud, today presided over a meeting of the Council of Ministers at Al-Yamamah Palace, Riyadh. After the meeting, his excellency the minister of information, 'Ali al-Sha'ir, told SPA that at the beginning of today's session the king had briefed the Council on the results of his talks with his brother, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt, talks held in the context of mutual consultations on current issues on the Arab and Islamic levels.

The custodian of the two holy mosques expressed his deep satisfaction with the positive results of President Mubarak's visit, especially in the field of joint cooperation between the two countries in all spheres. He—may God protect him—said: Our perception and views on all the issues, which were discussed realistically and objectively to the benefit of the two fraternal peoples and countries, were identical.

Minister al-Sha'ir added: The Council was also informed of the results of U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci's visit and his meetings with senior Saudi Arabian Government officials. [passage omitted]

Minister al-Sha'ir said: The Council studied business on the agenda and issued the necessary decisions. Among these decisions was one approving the agreement on technical and economic cooperation between the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Canadian Government in conformity with the draft attached to the decision. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Egypt's Mubarak on Gulf, Arab Affairs

JN111247 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 1010 GMT 11 Jan 88

[News conference by Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held in Abu Dhabi on 11 January—recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr President, what are the dimensions of coordination between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the GCC states?

[Mubarak] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In fact, I am happy to visit a country with whom we have been linked by strong relations for a long time. This country is one of the GCC states, the UAE, which is led by a dear brother and friend, President Shaykh Zayid, for whom we harbor every love and appreciation. In answer to the question: What are the horizons of coordination and cooperation, I would like to say coordination and cooperation between Egypt and the Gulf states are not new. Coordination is an old issue. It did not just start now, but a long time ago, and did not stop even when relations were frozen.

However, coordination, cooperation, contacts, and dialogue between Egypt and the GCC countries, particularly the UAE, have never stopped and will not stop. There is a strong bond between us in various fields of cooperation: in economic, political, and military fields. We consider all these important fields.

I reiterate what I said in sisterly Saudi Araia. The Gulf states' security is Egypt's security. With regard to the rumors about Egypt [words indistinct] these are only mentioned in newspapers. What is mentioned in the newspapers is mere speculation at times. The issue is not one of soldiers and money. Such a deal takes place between countries that are not bound by strong ties or by brotherhood and are not linked by strong ties of cooperation. As to the Gulf countries, this is a subject on which we do not go into detail. Cooperation exists. Gulf security is our security. This is a very important issue and it concerns us as much as it concerns the Gulf states.

The rumors spread by some foreign newspapers harm us both, as if you want to hire and I take the money. The fraternal relations between Egypt, the GCC states, and the Gulf and Arab states are not that of hiring, leasing, or making a living.

[Question] Mr President, what practical steps can you suggest on the Arab level to support the popular uprising in Palestine? Will this issue be discussed in your meeting with the U.S. President and from what angle?

[Mubarak] The issue of the uprising is not new. It has been there for a long time. I think our stand on the Palestinian question in general and the uprising in particular is clear. We have denounced all measures taken to face this uprising. We have said the only solution is to speed up the convening of an international peace conference to avoid all of the problems, fighting, bloodshed, and depletion of resources, that might result from freezing the status quo.

As for raising this issue during our talks in the United States and some European countries, this is natural. What then can we discuss? These are main issues: the Gulf, the uprising, and the Palestinian cause. I will not discuss the uprising as such, I am talking about the Palestinian issue. The uprising is an alarm bell. It says: Respond to peace calls and respond to the righteous and just call. The issue of an international conference should be pushed forward so we may realize the desired goals of establishing a comprehensive and just peace in our region through solving the Palestinian cause.

I will certainly raise the Palestinian cause with the United States and all of the countries I will visit. However, the subject has many angles: right angles and obtuse angles. [laughter] I am not going to discuss the details with you. Moreover, I will inform you about the talks (?by telephone).

[Question] I am from AL-BAYAN newspaper. Mr President, there has been much talk about attempts at reconciliation between Egypt and Syria. Where have these attempts gone? What is your stand on these attempts?

[Mubarak] You want the truth: There are no such attempts. There are no such attempts at all. What you hear are only rumors. I do not know who launches and then denies them. Some talk about an Egyptian-Syrian meeting somewhere in Europe, an Egyptian-Iranian meeting in Bucharest, and an Egyptian-Syrian meeting in Bucharest. They also say, for example, that a meeting will be held between Al-Shar' [the Syrian foreign minister] and our foreign minister and that Al-Shar' will meet with the director of the president's office. All of this is fabrication. I tell you the truth. There are no contacts and there is no reconciliation. There is nothing between Syria and me at all.

If he [Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad] disagrees with us, why doesn't he talk with us. He is welcome. We met in Kuwait. He does not want to talk. What am I expected to do? You and I talk about Arab issue. I talk about Arab issues and think my point of view is correct. You disagree and say you talk about the issues from a correct point of view? Well, let us sit and talk. You do not want to sit and talk. What can I do? We are in an age in which we must talk and hold dialogues if we want to solve our problems, achieve reconciliation, and strengthen the Arab states. Dialogue, rationality, objectivity, and realism are the basis. There are no attempts and no meetings have been held with sisterly Syria. I reiterate: There are no problems between Syria and me. They create problems. They are free. I met the Syrian president in Kuwait. I aimed for the meeting.

No one mediated for my meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. I have known President Hafiz al-Asad for a long time. He was a friend and a brother of mine. He used to work with us in the Air Force in (Bilbis). Our meeting in Kuwait was not arranged through anyone's initiative. It was an initiative on my part. I entered a large hall. I saw him with my Brother Shaykh Zayid. He was turning his back to me. I speak to you frankly. I went to him, shook hands with him and said : Hello Brother Hafiz. I shook hands with him and Shaykh Zayid. We began to talk. The meeting was not arranged by anyone.

Well, what more does he expect me to do? I extended my hand. I do not want anything from him. I want Arab reconciliation. I want to be in agreement as Arabs. I want us to be strong to confront the dangers that want to destroy us one after the other. We want to stand against these dangers. However, if we remain fragmented, it is certain we will not reach a solution; rather, we will all be torn to shreds.

['Uthman] 'Abd al-Mun'im 'Uthman, of the UAE paper AL-ITTIHAD. Mr President, what role can be played by Egypt militarily in defending the Arab Gulf states in the event of a military escalation in the Gulf area? I have another question: Where did your good offices to remove tension and improve relations between Sudan and Ethiopia reach? Thanks.

[Mubarak] I would like to pose the question differently. I ask: Where will cooperation between our brothers in the Gulf states and Egypt reach in the event of an escalation of the situation? This is because the basis of defense are the peoples themselves, the countries themselves, not Egypt. However, Egypt will not be late in assisting its sisterly Gulf countries if there is any danger. I cannot discuss any more details on this occasion. These are military details. I do not talk to the mass media about military or defense details. This is in the interest of both Egypt and the Gulf states. However, the Gulf states' defensive capabilities have become very good. There is continued dialogue and discussion. I reaffirm that Gulf security is Egypt's security. We cannot be hesitant about aiding our brothers in the Gulf in accordance with agreed upon methods. There are many talks in this regard.

As for Sudan's relations with Ethiopia, we exert our utmost to achieve conciliation and accord between our brothers in Sudan and friendly Ethiopia. I think there was a ministerial meeting scheduled for 8 January. However, the meeting did not take place. I sent an envoy to President Mengistu—as we have very good relations with him and Ethiopia—to urge him to respond to these efforts. I do not know why the meeting was obstructed. However, we all try all means to achieve conciliation. We hope our brothers in Sudan and Ethiopia can reach a conciliation to avert needless conflicts and bloodshed and not increase our military and war expenditures. Other countries benefit from these expenditures. We pay, shed our blood, and sap our resources and at our expense the living standards of producing countries become higher.

[Question] [Name indistinct] from AL-WAHDAH newspaper, Abu Dhabi. Mr President, Egypt is still determined to reject autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. What is the ideal solution to the Palestine question? Do you think, Mr President, that the formation of a Palestinian government-in-exile constitutes a reasonable alternative solution? Thank you.

[Mubarak] Does the brother questioner say Egypt is still rejecting Palestinian autonomy, the autonomy talks? If the Palestinian brothers accept something and we discover it is reasonable and good to push the peace process ahead and reach a just and comprehensive peace and end the Palestine question, we will not hesitate to exert any effort. In this regard, we are cooperating with our brother, His Majesty King Husayn, for whom I harbor every respect and appreciation, and with the PLO. We (?discussed) the subject of autonomy a long time ago, perhaps December 1981. Sharp criticism was leveled against us.

We cannot negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians because any concession of Palestinian territory or the cause should stem from the owners of the land, who have the rights, and not from us or any other state. Consequently, the Palestinian factor should be a basic one in any talks, because only the Palestinians can make a decision affecting their future. No one can make it on their behalf. Autonomy was not desired [words indistinct]. We stopped and the door of autonomy talks was closed. It was the second framework of Camp David. We become annoyed when we hear of Camp David. You are free. We will say nothing. Everyone thinks in his own way.

We are not intransigent nor do we reject the autonomy talks. If the Palestinian brothers accept this, we will consider the ways we can follow for this purpose. However, what is on the stage now is the subject of the international conference. Camp David and such things are over. They have been worn out by us or Israel because the latter violated Camp David by annexing the Golan and by declaring Jerusalem its capital and all these constitute a pressure on the talks. It violated this.

However, we can state that the second Camp David framework has been frozen and exhausted because the talks made no progress and Israel changed the Camp David spirit as put by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter when he visited Israel. He said Israel changed the spirit of Camp David. In any case, the subject of Camp David annoys us and upsets many people. Let us then forget this subject; we have the international conference ahead of us. [Words indistinct] the international conference and the delegations to the talks that the PLO should be represented either with the Jordanians—and this is the method we prefer and there was a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement—or the method we all accept through agreement with the Palestinians.

We believe the ideal way is the Palestinian representation within the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. We have not resolved the issue of Palestinian representation so far. Although there was a Jordanian-Palestinian (?agreement), there is now suspicion or hesitation. I think Israel seized the opportunity and said: No, I do not agree to an international conference, although the former Israeli prime minister agreed to an international conference and said this in Alexandria when he came to sign the Tabah arbitration document.

The point is that we do not know our way. Let us sit and agree. Let there be no disagreement. Let us see the ideal way and think deeply rather than haphazardly so we can face Israel with one opinion, knowing which way we will go. This will facilitate ending the present situation regarding the Palestine question.

As for a Palestinian government-in-exile, Egypt called for such government in 1975 or 1976 as I remember, but it was rejected. Now that our brothers in the PLO are talking about it, we welcome that. We leave the matter to them to assess the situation, discuss all aspects of this subject, and decide whether or not they want a government-in-exile. We leave the matter to them. If they agree to something, let them explain to us why they agree to it and what they want to do and we will bless any method they choose along the right path to resolving the Palestine question.

[Question] Mr President, recent reports mention a thinning of the U.S. naval presence in the Gulf. Do you think Arab efforts must be stepped up to ensure the eastern Arab front?

[Mubarak] I will not discuss this subject in public, as a mere word may be expolited to play countries against each other. However, I would repeat that the security of our brothers here is part of ours.

[Question] Iran and the Gulf states are reportedly making contacts with a view to halting the hostilities between Iraq and Iran. Assuming the reports are true, how far have these efforts gotten?

[Mubarak] As a matter of fact, we support and bless any efforts—Arab or otherwise—to stop the war and bloodletting involving two Muslim countries. As for Gulf efforts, I am not authorized to speak on behalf of the Gulf states. This is for the Gulf leaders to discuss. However, there certainly are moves in this direction.

[Question] [Name indistinct] from AL-BAYAN. Mr President, according to some reports, resumed relations between Egypt and the GCC states and [words indistinct] will be used as a card during your upcoming state visit to Washington. Assuming the accuracy of the reports, how will this affect military cooperation between Egypt on the one hand and the EC and the United States on the other?

[Mubarak] In my visits to Europe and the United States, I will certainly be discussing issues of common concern, with the Gulf war and the Palestine case topping the agenda of our talks, not only with European nations and the United States, but other countries around the world. We will make every effort along with our Arab brothers to avert the threats emanating from the Gulf war and Palestinian problem. As for our arms requirements, I don't think this is relevant here; our acquisition of arms is an ongoing process. This is because we are purchasing arms not to attack others but to legitimately defend ourselves.

[Question] [Name indistinct] from AL-ANBA'. Against the backdrop of Arab and other efforts, do you expect an international [Mideast peace] conference to be convened this year? And where do you stand on the Austrian foreign minister's proposal that it be held in Vienna?

[Mubarak] All of us would have liked the conference to have been convened even in 1987. It is my fervent wish it be held in 1988. However, the road is not so clear: Israel will have elections in September, if I am not mistaken; the United States will have presidential elections in November. The world is busy. But I hope from the bottom of my heart that an international conference will be convened and we have to do our best toward that end. Let's first put our house in order and agree on Palestinian representation—Jordan, the PLO, and other Arab countries.

In the meantime, let's go on discussing the subject with the Untied States, European nations, and Israel until the latter responds to the call of right, namely the convening of an international conference so we can reach the end of the road regarding the problem.

[(Muzaffar)] (Salah al-Din Muzaffar) of the television of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Mr President, in light of the circumstances in the Arab region and in light of the new developments and the reunification of ranks, is it time for Arab self-sufficiency in arms and is it time for an Arab common market? Thank you.

[Mubarak] The question of Arab self-sufficiency in arms—I do not think that... [Mubarak changes thought] Those who do have self-sufficiency are big powers and great industrial countries that have vast resources, such as the United States and the Soviet Union. And even then they resort to buying many weapon components—for economic reasons—from other countries that produce them. The question of total self-sufficiency is difficult. We are bound to depend on others. Why? Because the manufacture of aircraft is very costly—it requires thousands of parallel industries. We cannot do it.

To manufacture aircraft we have to guarantee we can annually sell at least 300, 400, or 500 aircraft for economic reasons. Otherwise, the price of an aircraft will be 20 times the price at which I buy it from other states. The other states produce hundreds and thousands of aircraft a year, and so economically that is feasable. However, if I should produce 3, 4, or 5 aircraft a month, 60 aircraft a year, all the expenses will be shared by these aircraft. No one will buy aircraft from me. It will be a [word indistinct] industry. That is with regard to self-sufficiency. I am just giving an example.

A European [as heard] market? We hope to discuss this matter with our Arab brothers when we resolve our present problems and that depends on (?them).

[Question] [Name indistinct] from Egyptian television. Mr President, the Amman summit was a step along the correct path. How does President Mubarak view the future of Arab action? Can Arab solidarity be restored to what it used to be—and did it reach its peak in 1973? Thank you.

[Mubarak] The Amman summit was a step along the path of Arab reconciliation. However, we hope this step [will be followed by] many other steps so inter-Arab differences will be resolved and we will all live in amity and in a genuine fraternal atmosphere with cohesion and solidarity. When we all have solidarity and agree, our position will be very strong in the face of any enemy attempting to threaten the Arab nation. We hope to get to such a stage, but that needs many steps. We do not want... [Mubarak changes thought] To realize such an objective, we have to relinquish selfish and personal interests and look at the common interest. That is the way to achieve strong solidarity that will benefit us as an Arab nation. Thank you.

President Receives III Army Corps Officers

JN111521 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1356 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has asserted that Iraq will achieve victory in the war and that the celebration of this victory will come. The president said: With God's help, Iraq will continue to be protected and its men will always raise their heads with pride.

Speaking today to a group of officers who had refused to be transferred to Baghdad according to military orders, he added: What is taking place in Iraq will bring great hope for a bright picture for the whole Arab nation, not only for the Iraqis. He said: In such a picture, we will see a prosperous future.

President Saddam Husayn added that Iraq refuses to turn backwards. He added that Iraqis possess a great nationalist spirit and have put noble principles above all individual or personal considerations. He praised the high morale of the military men who refused to be transferred to Baghdad, preferring to stay in their combat positions along the lines of confrontation with the rancorous Iranian enemy.

He also asserted that these men's example lives in Iraqi minds on and behind the battlefront. This example will defeat the enemy from within before it attacks Iraq, because the enemy will then know there is no hole in the Iraqi wall.

It is worth noting that the fighters whom the president received belong to the heroic III Army Corps.

Tariq 'Aziz, PLO's 'Arafat Discuss Uprising

JN111918 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman.

They reviewed developments in the sweeping popular uprising in the occupied Arab territory against Zionist occupation. They also discussed the situation in the Arab region.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary, the head of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Department, PLO Executive Committee members Jamal al-Surani and 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, and the head of the PLO office in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Lloyds Says Iranian Tanker Hit

JN111335 Baghdad INA in English 1327 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] London, Jan. 11, INA—British shipping intelligence service Lloyds today stressed that Iranian tanker Khark 3 was hit last night while sailing from Khark Island loaded with crude oil. Lloyds said the tanker weighs 137.895 tonnes in ballast and was built in 1971.

This morning, an Iraqi military spokesman said Iraqi jets scored an accurate and effective hit on two naval targets off the Iranian coast last night.

Communique No 2,983

JN111738 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Communique No 2,983 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 11 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces' sons, who are protecting the homeland and who are the pride of the nation of messages, heroism, and sacrifice, express the meaning of manhood in the battlefields and daily achieve victory over our Zionist Khomeyniite enemies. The results of their activities for last night and today are as follows:

1. In continuation of our brave Armed Forces' victories and the great efforts exerted by our heroic Air Force to strike at vital installations related to the war effort and to cut off the oil supplies of the Zionist Iranian regime whose revenues are exploited for aggressive purposes, the hawks achieved the following:

a. At 2100 [1800 GMT] last night, an accurate and effective blow was dealt to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast.

b. At 2300 last night, an accurate and effective blow was dealt to a second large maritime target near the Iranian coast. After carrying out these two heroic missions, the hawks returned with their planes safely and victoriously to base in God's care and protection.

2. A group of enemy personnel was pounded, killing and wounding a number of enemy troops, and one infantry position and two shovels [preceding word in English] were destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

3. Three scoundrels were killed, one machinegun and one observation post were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. One enemy soldier was killed, two infantry positions were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. Two observation posts were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

6. Two infantry positions and one observation post were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

7. In the VII Army Corps sector, two medium machine-guns and two infantry positions were destroyed and one enemy soldier was killed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 January 1988

2 Iranian Tankers Hit

JN112025 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2005 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Shipping sources in Manama today confirmed that Iraqi fighter planes have hit two Iranian oil tankers near Iran's Khark Island.

In statements carried by REUTER, these sources said the (280,476-tonne) tanker "Khark 3" was hit and set ablaze when it was loaded with oil. The sources said that 2 hours prior to this attack, Iraqi aircraft had hit another Iranian tanker at Khark Island.

'Very Large' Maritime Target Hit

JN112038 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2026 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Summary from poor reception] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—In a statement to INA, a military spokesman said at 1900 today Iraqi aircraft scored "an accurate and effective hit on a very large maritime target off the Iranian coast."

The spokesman added that the aircraft returned safely to base after carrying out their mission.

Athens Reports Tanker Attack

NC121312 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 1230 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] The 21,320-ton tanker "United Venture," which is under the Cypriot flag, was hit by Iraqi aircraft late last night off the Iranian coast.

The tanker caught on fire after the attack and, according to initial reports, eight crew members are missing.

UN's Goulding Attempts To Tour Territories

Denied Entry Into Gaza Camps

TA120907 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] The security forces this morning forbade UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding to enter the Jabalyah and Shatti refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. When he arrived in Jabalyah, Goulding was told that the area has been declared a closed military zone. The Shatti refugee camp is under curfew.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Mr Goulding is currently conferring with UNRWA personnel in Gaza. His party is trying to obtain a permit to tour the Jabalyah camp.

IDF Explains Restrictions

TA120940 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] An IDF officer has informed UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding that he is free to move throughout the Gaza Strip except in places declared closed military zones or areas under curfew. A short while earlier, the UN motorcade tried to enter two refugee camps, but was stopped by security forces because those areas are under curfew. Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv, who is accompanying Goulding's party, reports that the visitor has already met with Rashad al-Shawwa, as well as with UNRWA officials in their main office in Gaza.

Quiet prevails in the Gaza Strip this morning, although there is no commercial activity and only few left for work in Israel.

Mob Prevents Gaza Camp Tour

TA121317 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] At noon today, a raging mob in the Al-Mughazi refugee camp prevented UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding from touring the site. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that an IDF force had been stationed at the entrance to the refugee camp. Meanwhile, hundreds of local inhabitants gathered 200 meters away from the soldiers, inside the camp, and chanted slogans. When Mr Goulding arrived, his way was blocked by four burning barrels. A mob stood by the barrels shouting catcalls.

Mr Goulding sent an aide, an UNRWA official in the Gaza Strip, to clear the way for him. Some 10 minutes later the official returned and told Mr Goulding that it would be best if he did not go in. Marrack Goulding left the Gaza Strip a short time ago on his way back to Tel Aviv.

Details on Meeting With Peres

TA111817 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by unidentified correspondent; place not given—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Vice Prime Minister, how do you view the visit of Mr Goulding and what was the position that you explained to him?

[Peres] I explained to him that I am receiving him in his capacity as the UN under secretary general, not as the envoy of the Security Council decision, which we reject out of hand. I explained to him that the Security Council has no role in restoring calm in the territories. This is entirely our responsibility.

He told me that he agrees with me that the Security Council has no role in the territories—at most it can have a role in convening the elements necessary for the negotiations, a thing that we ourselves are interested in. He told me, however, that he came here on behalf of the Security Council to examine two things. One is the severe measures which we have supposedly taken in the territories. The other is to argue with us on the issue of the deportations, saying that this is contrary to the Geneva Convention.

I told him that all the talk about severe and sharp measures is baseless. What we are doing in the territories is not a policy but self-defense. We have not started this, and it is doubtful whether anybody decided on a policy for this action. Everybody was surprised by what happened. I reiterated that we consider ourselves as the sole party responsible for the lives and well-being of all the residents, Jews and Arabs, citizens and residents, and he did not dispute this point.

As regards the issue of deportation I told him that despite the fact that he is English and I am not, we in Israel are using the British law which was enforced here in the time of the mandate when the British were conquerers. They themselves used this law. I told him that Israel, out of humanitarian reasons, has always avoided executions. In the matter of deportations we introduced the judicial process, i.e., a man who has been ordered to leave Israel is entitled to appeal to a consultative committee and to the High Court of Justice. He said that in this issue we remain at odds.

[Correspondent] Sir, you also talked about the need to find a political solution. Is there any concrete proposal on this issue?

[Peres] They are waiting for our proposal. I told him that I, for one—and I think that not only me—am convinced that the Palestinian issue cannot be solved with stones or bullets. The only way to solve it is through negotiations and we are searching for a way to open negotiations. So far there are quite a few obstacles in the way. I have not despaired. We must find a way to overcome the obstacles.

Rabin Talks With Goulding

TA121624 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin conferred with UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding for approximately 1 hour and explained to him Israel's policy in the territories. For his part, the guest expounded on the UN's concern over what has been happening in the territories. Mr Goulding said that the Israeli authorities did not allow him to enter two refugee camps in the Gaza area, whereas in a third camp there might have been a confrontation and that is why he abstained from going in. The meeting was attended by the deputy chief of staff, the chief of intelligence, the coordinator of government's activities in the territories, and other officers.

USSR's Gerasimov on Kalmanovich, Visit

TA120815 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] The Soviet Union says it knows nothing about Shabtay Kalmanovich, who was detained in Israel on espionage charges. Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov told our correspondent Gid'on Remez that Kalmanovich's name is not known in Moscow.

Gerasimov also reported that Israel's request to send a small delegation to Moscow to check the situation in the Israeli interests section of the Netherlands Embassy there is being looked into. No decision has been made yet, he said, but the request was not turned down outright.

Claims Human Rights Violated

TA121139 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Report on telephone interview with Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov by Gid'on Remez on 12 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Remez] Gerasimov had nothing new to tell us regarding the reexamination of refuseniks' requests for exit permits. You will recall that many individuals have left the Soviet Union recently, he said, so that the problem is gradually being eliminated.

On the other hand, in response to another question he emphasized: The Soviet public, like its government, is concerned with the violation of the human rights of the Palestinians in the territories:

[Gerasimov, speaking in English] We don't like here in Moscow, and the Soviet public actually doesn't like it, the situation with human rights of Palestinians. Today, for instance, the news are that three more Palestinians were killed in riots in Israel-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and frankly the Soviet public doesn't like it, and we think that human rights are violated much more seriously than anywhere else. [passage omitted]

[Remez] As everyone knows, we support the idea of an international conference for the solution to the problem, and are looking into ways to promote the matter, Gerasimov said, noting nevertheless that the Soviet Union still has no concrete suggestions.

Soviet Visas Extended; Shevardnadze Contacted

TA121300 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 12 Jan 88 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Israel has agreed to extend the visas of the Soviet consular delegation for 1 month in the hope that Moscow will agree by then to a reciprocal visit by an Israeli delegation. This was reported yesterday by a government official in Jerusalem.

According to the official, Georgiy Martirosov, the new head of the Soviet delegation, asked to extend the visas—which expire on 14 January—in a meeting he held on Sunday with Yosi Beilin, the director general of the Foreign Ministry. Martirosov said the Kremlin is considering Israel's request to send its diplomats to Moscow.

The official also said that an Israeli consular delegation would concern itself with issues related to the Jewish community in the Soviet Union and to Israeli citizens studying in Moscow.

Foreign Minister Peres this week transmitted a message to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze via his political adviser Nimrod Novik, who conferred in Helsinki with a senior Soviet diplomat responsible for contacts with Israel. In the talks, Novik wanted to hear about the Soviet intentions regarding the political process and the possibility of a visit by an Israeli consular delegation.

Peres appeared yesterday for the first time on Hungarian television, saying among other things that the USSR is currently not helping to solve the Middle East problem, and is adopting positions unacceptable to Israel. If the Soviet Union is interested in having any influence, it must establish relations with us, Peres said.

Soviet Control of Jerusalem Land To Be Honored

TA071502 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Jan 88 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Excerpt] Israel has explained to the USSR that it will honor all of the Soviet Union's rights over its assets in Israel, including the return of a plot in the center of Jerusalem to Soviet control. This was announced yesterday by Victor Har'el, director of the Foreign Ministry's Claims Division, to Georgiy Martirosov, the new head of the Soviet consular delegation.

The plot in question is adjacent to the Tirat Bat-Sheva' Hotel on King George Street in Jerusalem. The Soviet Union has expressed the fear that a private contractor was trying to build on a Soviet-owned plot of land. [passage omitted]

Beilin Discusses Kalmanovich's Contacts Abroad

TA111643 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Interview with Dr Yosi Beilin, the Foreign Ministry's political director general, in the Jerusalem studio, by moderator Ilana Dayan, in the Tel Aviv studio—live]

[Excerpts] [Dayan] Good evening, Dr Beilin.

[Beilin] Good evening.

[Dayan] Alon Li'al, head of the South African department in the Foreign Ministry has said that Kalmanovich has caused us incredible political damage. In what way?

[Beilin] One of the most grave phenomena in the South African Government's treatment of its black citizens is the establishment of the homelands. There are four such homelands at present and others are in an advanced stage of being established. This is, however, only a pretense. It is one of the ugliest aspects of apartheid. It is in a fact like saying: Live there, take care of your internal affairs, but in fact we are continuing to rule over you. You are only presidents and prime ministers in appearance. The world does not pay any attention to these countries and does not recognize them.

The only countries which had economic contacts with the homelands—and here we are talking about Bophuthatswana—are Taiwan, and to my regret also Israel, through Kalmanovich. When we started to implement our new policy toward South Africa one of the first issues was dealing with the question of the homelands. We were faced with a very strange situation. People arrived here with the passports of this country, which no country in the world—including Israel—recognizes. These people were received in the airport as VIP's. Apparently Mr Kalmanovich considers himself as the ambassador or representative of Bophuthatswana.

[Dayan] What eventually led you to lift his diplomatic rights? Did you find out that he was an imposter?

[Beilin] He was not an imposter in the sense that Bophuthatswana claimed he was not its representative, but rather in the sense that we do not recognize this place at all. We examined the individuals in Israel who represent these so called countries, and it transpired that Kalmanovich was the only one who used external symbols—he hoisted the flag of Bophuthatswana, which does not exist, over his office on Hayarkon St. He also secured a special parking space with the permission of the police. He went around with a passport, received guests at the airport, and was able to pass them through.

[Dayan] I understand that the Tel Aviv municipality also regarded him as a full fledged diplomatic representative.

[Beilin] Yes, but not through any fault of its own. You know how it is, you see a serious person with a serious passport stamped with a signature. One says to oneself, well, there are 160 countries in the world, Bophuthatswana is probably one of them.

[Dayan] Dr Beilin, in the process of your activity for lifting Kalmanovich's special diplomatic rights was there any cooperation or any exchange of information between you and the Shin Bet.

[Beilin] No, I do not think so. We did not even think about such a thing. We regarded Kalmanovich only as somebody representing a country which does not exist. We were able to remove the sign and the flag from his office, as well as his parking space, only 6 weeks ago. He was no longer able to receive guests at the airport.

[Dayan] You know, yesterday you gave the head of the Soviet consular delegation a visa extension for another month. Do you have any second thoughts regarding strengthening relations with the Soviets in light of this affair?

[Beilin] I do not think there is any connection between the two things.

[Dayan] Do you still hope that the Soviets will agree to receive a parallel Israeli delegation within the next month on the basis of the principle of reciprocity?

[Beilin] I would not like to overestimate this hope. After all, we are talking here about a low level of exchanges, a consular or low-level diplomatic framework. We are demanding that the Soviet Union resume full diplomatic relations with us, and we will insist on this in future as well.

Syrian Presence in South Lebanon Concerns Lahd
TA070628 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], says that the Syrian Army forces in the village of Ma'sarah in southern Lebanon pose a real danger to the security strip. Lahd said his army cannot face the Syrians on its own, but the cooperation between the SLA and the IDF is preventing Syria from initiating offensive moves in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Gen Lahd and hundreds of dignitaries from southern Lebanon attended a New Year party in Qiryat Shemona yesterday.

IDF 'Prepared' for Syrian Chemical Weapons
TA111016 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] The defense minister says incidents in the territories express despair and frustration reflected in the lack of chances for a political solution. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Minister Rabin spoke before Tel Aviv high school students.

On another matter he said there is room to assume that Syria is equipping itself with chemical weapons, and the IDF is prepared for this.

IDF Denies Shi'ite Town Blockade in Lebanon
TA081103 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Jan 88 p 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[Text] Rosh Haniqra—The IDF yesterday denied allegations that it has blockaded a Shi'ite village just north of the Security Zone in South Lebanon for the past six days.

Lebanon's ambassador to the UN reportedly lodged an official protest on Wednesday with the secretary-general over the "siege" of Yuhmur.

According to the Lebanese media, the blockade started on December 31, a day after IDF troops had tracked a wounded terrorist to the Shi'ite settlement. The gunman had been wounded the previous day in a clash with IDF troops.

The Lebanese papers reported that a roadblock was set up on the only road into the village after the residents there refused to hand over the injured gunman.

The barriers were removed on Wednesday, apparently to allow an international Red Cross food convoy into the village.

Israeli military sources said last night that neither the IDF nor the South Lebanese Army had imposed a curfew on the village.

Husayn 'Prepared To Assume' Gaza Security
TA121343 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that King Husayn is prepared to assume responsibility for the Gaza Strip.

Referring to the situation in the Gaza District, Judaea, and Samaria, Mr Peres added that Husayn would take good care of security in Gaza. He denied reports that he had negotiated territorial concessions with Jordan during the current government's tenure.

As for the situation in the territories, the vice prime minister said that in his opinion the Arabs are also bothered by the riots and that is why he foresees a certain lull, although he does not know how long it will last.

During the meeting, Knesset Member Yosi Sarid called for the dismissal of the defense minister for having failed to foresee the events in the territories and for not having prepared the Army for these developments. Minister Peres did not react to this demand.

Egypt To Build Security Fence on Rafah Border
TA081835 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Jan 88 p A6

[Report by 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Text] The Egyptian Army has recently demolished 25 houses on its side of Rafah, to enable the erection of a security fence on the Egyptian side of the border.

The demolition was carried out by the Egyptian Army at the request of the IDF, in the wake of the recent incident on the Egyptian border in which two terrorists attacked a regular IDF border patrol, threw two hand grenades, and shot at the patrol with automatic weapons. The terrorists had arrived at the site of the attack after breaking through the fence.

During last month's disturbances in Gaza, there were two attempts by Egyptian residents of Rafah to stage demonstrations near the security fence.

Egyptian Envoy Tours Gaza, Comments on Peace
TA071713 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Report by correspondent in the south 'Ezra Yanuv—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni held a comprehensive tour of health services in Gaza accompanied by Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of activities in the territories. During a visit to the Ashqelon Medical Center later, Basyuni visited two inhabitants of Jabalyah and Gaza who were wounded in the latest wave of disturbances in the Gaza Strip. They have been operated on and are recuperating at the Ashqelon Medical Center. Referring to the need for peace, Basuyni told us:

[Basyuni,speaking in English] Our main target is to achieve the comprehensive peace. I would like so much to find that everything is okay, to concentrate on going on for the peace process and to achieve the comprehensive peace. This is the main target. So I hope that everything will be quiet in Gaza so that we can prepare the atmosphere to go ahead for the peace process.

Rabin Compares Rafah, Falklands to Territories

TA111733 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Report by military correspondent Alon Ben-David]

[Text] Naturally the Tel Aviv high school students showed interest in events in the territories. Among those who presented questions to the defense minister were 12th-grade students who signed a letter saying they refuse to serve beyond the Green Line. The defense minister told them: I am aware of the discontent the soldiers feel in discharging their duties in the territories. Nonetheless, Minister Rabin said, the IDF soldiers by and large are not trigger happy.

[Begin Rabin recording] Everything that is happening notwithstanding, we exercise restraint. Yesterday, for instance, there was a Palestinian demonstration on the other side of Rafah, beyond the Egyptian border fence. The soldiers who reacted to that event didn't hesitate for long. I have no idea whether they actually used rubber bullets, I do not know if they used tear gas. They immediately opened fire, and the demonstration ultimately ended. I do not know how many people were injured in that demonstration or how many were killed.

Demonstrations throughout the Arab world end very quickly thanks to the use of firearms. [end recording]

The defense minister strongly attacked the criticism leveled here by the British Foreign Office official, recalling the censorship imposed by the British on reports from the Falklands.

[Begin Rabin recording] What was it that Britain went to war for? It was fighting over an island of sheep, near Argentina, 700 miles away from Britain. I never saw that there was a single sheep that threatened the government in London. And yet today the British are preaching morals to us. They would be well advised to check themselves first and admit that they imposed censorship on reportage during the war. [end recording]

Rabin sees the disturbances in the territories as resulting from the inhabitants' frustration and discouragement in view of the fact that their cause has been struck off the agenda of the world and even the Arab countries.

Shamir Suggests Resettlement of Palestinians

TA111502 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Jan 88 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir suggests using international funds to resettle the Palestinian refugees in Arab countries, or anywhere else as long as it is outside Israel and the territories. This was made clear last night to DAVAR by a senior official in the Prime Minister's Office following U.S. Senator Arlen Specter's announcement that he would help Israel receive special funding from Congress for the prime minister's proposal.

The senator made this announcement in a meeting last night with the prime minister in his office in Jerusalem. In this meeting, the U.S. senator listened to Yitzhaq Shamir's proposal to convene an international conference to solve the refugee problem. The prime minister, who raised a similar proposal a month ago in his conversation with Italian President Francesco Cossiga, did not go into detail about where the refugees should be resettled, and as stated above, a senior official in his office clarified this point in reply to a question by DAVAR.

In the conversation with Senator Specter, Shamir said that in his view, the Arab oil countries, the United States, Canada, Japan, and Britain can participate in such an international conference.

Yitzhaq Shamir also said that Israel will contribute the experience it gained "in the resettlement of 800,000 Jewish refugees from Arab countries." In his estimation, the Palestinian refugee problem can be solved "within 2 to 3 years" through an international effort. He recalled that Israel was denounced for its attempt to set up permanent housing for the refugees in the Gaza Strip area.

Pamphlets on Civil Disobedience Distributed

TA101541 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Jan 88 pp A1, 2

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] There was an additional wave of arrests in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip at the end of the week. Dozens of people suspected of inciting and organizing the latest riots were detained for interrogation. Some were placed under 6-month administrative detention orders.

Pamphlets giving examples of 17 civil disobedience activities were distributed in East Jerusalem and in several other places in the West Bank. These included: boycotting Israeli goods, evading taxes, violating curfews, keeping doors closed to police and Shin Bet personnel, delivering nationalistic sermons and declarations in mosques and churches, banning dancing at weddings, crowding prisons with detainees, printing large numbers of underground newspapers, hoisting huge numbers of

Palestinian flags, wearing traditional Arabic dress, blasting car horns for long periods, organizing local action committees in Arab settlements and neighborhoods, stopping work in Israel, and ceasing cooperation with the Civilian Administration. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 10 January carries a related report on page 3 adding: "A new body calling itself 'The Committee for Civil Disobedience in the Occupied Territories,' whose members are unidentified, appeared yesterday" and presented similar demands.]

Rabin: Sinyurah 'PLO Agent' 'Playing With Fire'

TA081456 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that Hanna Sinyurah is an agent of the PLO. I can prove this, I have evidence, Mr Rabin said in an address at the Commercial Club in Tel Aviv. The defense minister said that someone must make clear to Sinyurah that he is playing with fire. This is not because he is too serious, but rather because calling for civil disobedience under the present circumstances is tantamount to pouring fuel onto the fire. [sentence as heard]

Mr Rabin added that the news conference planned by Sinyurah was canceled after he instructed the Civilian Administration to warn all the residents of the territories who had been invited that they would be participating in an illegal action.

Sinyurah Describes 9 Jan Police Interrogation

TA101513 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 10 Jan 88 p 4

[Report by Oren Kohen]

[Excerpt] AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah was detained yesterday by the police for questioning on suspicion of inciting rebellion. He was released on a 1,000-shekel bail, and was told he must stay in the country and is forbidden from flying abroad without police permission.

Sinyurah told HADASHOT yesterday that he was interrogated for 2 and 1/2 hours by Jerusalem police. He said that the interrogators placed before him cassettes of newscasts and newspaper clippings which carried his call for civil disobedience. The interrogators asked him more than 20 questions in different variations, to all of which he replied: "I am operating within the framework of the law and will answer that question in detail in court." The interrogators were very polite, Sinyurah added.

Sinyurah was interrogated under Article 133 of the law dealing with incitement and rebellion. He stressed that his campaign to boycott Israeli products is a "political issue whose importance is the message transmitted to the people of Israel, that peace will be achieved only through negotiations." Sinyurah reacted to the remarks by Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, who said his statements were unrealistic and that 20 years of commercial cooperation could not be wiped out, by saying: "Mr Frayj was mistaken in his judgment and does not believe in the capability of the Palestinian people to go ahead with it. The time has come for our leaders to listen to the voices of the younger generation in the territories." [passage omitted]

4 Deportees Rescind Appeal to Committee

TA111830 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Four of the five candidates for expulsion from Judaea and Samaria have rescinded their appeal to the consultative committee affiliated with the commander of the Central Command. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that one of their attorneys maintains that most of the reasons given for their deportation are confidential, precluding any possibility of responding to them before the committee.

Further Disturbances Reported in Territories

1 Dead in Khan Yunus Violence

TA111718 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] A violent incident in Khan Yunus this afternoon resulted in the shooting death of a local inhabitant by the IDF. Another five inhabitants of the Gaza Strip were wounded in other incidents. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports on the Khan Yunus incident that a local resident tried to snatch the personal weapon of a soldier but failed. Later, several local residents attacked a group of soldiers. The commander of the unit opened fire in accordance with the regulations, killing one of the assailants.

Another victim of the Gaza Strip incidents died today at Tel Hashomer Hospital. He was a resident of Rafah.

5 Wounded in Jabalyah

TA111847 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Report by Steve Rodan]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Demonstrations were reported in Jabalyah, where five people were reported injured by rubber bullets, another in Bayt Hanun, and another in Gaza City. [passage omitted]

Security sources expect the unrest to continue for the duration of the 3-day strike declared in the territories to commemorate those killed by Army fire over the last month. They say the behavior of some of the demonstrators indicates that they intend to attack soldiers until they fire in self defense.

Arab Taxi Stoned in Shu'fat

TA111902 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] An Arab taxi driving in Shu'fat was pelted with rocks a short while ago, and an Arab passenger in that cab was wounded and transferred to the Hadassah-Mt Scopus hospital.

Curfew on Most Gaza Camps

TA121012 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Due to disturbances a curfew was imposed this morning on all Gaza refugee camps except for the Al-Mughazi site. This has been reported by a military source to our correspondent Moti Amir. [passage omitted]

1 Killed, 2 Wounded by IDF

TA121122 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1116 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] Here is a report we have just received: During riots in the Jabalyah refugee camp, one local resident was killed and two others wounded. A military source has told our correspondent Moti Amir that the inhabitants attacked the IDF soldiers in the camp. In the ensuing brawl, the soldiers were forced to open fire. To recap, one local inhabitant was killed and two were wounded.

West Bank Trade Strike

TA121116 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] Brigadier General Shay Erez, the head of the Judaea and Samaria Civilian Administration, has promised local businessmen that their shops, which were closed by the Civilian Administration during the last few days' disturbances, will be reopened. Our correspondent Steve Rodan says that Gen Erez made this promise during a meeting with approximately 200 mayors, teachers, and businessmen from the area. He made this conditional, however, on a pledge by the merchants that they refrain from declaring new business strikes.

This morning there was a general commercial strike throughout Judaea and Samaria, with the disturbances being concentrated mainly in Ramallah and its environs. Most bus companies are on strike for the 2d consecutive day, and in Nabulus only 4 of the 13 local bus companies operated this morning.

1 Killed, 5 Injured in Rafah

TA121242 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] A Rafah resident was killed about an hour ago in an attempt to attack an IDF unit with knives. The soldiers were patrolling the (Al-Shaburah) junction in Rafah when local residents attacked them, attempting to stab them with knives. The soldiers tried to disperse them by hurling smoke grenades and following anti-riot procedures, but when their lives were put in real danger they began shooting, killing one assailant and injuring another three.

There was another incident at the same time in the Jabalyah refugee camp, involving an attack on an IDF unit with rocks and spiked clubs. Here, too, the unit was finally forced to open fire, wounding two of the assailants.

2 Officials Detained

TA111647 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Pinhas Wallerstein, the head of the Mate Binyamin local council, and Shay Ben-Yosef, the council's security officer, were detained following their involvement in an incident in which a 16-year-old youth was shot and killed in (Bitin) near Ramallah.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that according to an IDF inquiry their vehicle was blocked by a burning tire near (Bitin) and youngsters attacked them with stones. This evening Gush Emunim demanded the release of Pinhas Wallerstein and all those who operated for, or are still working toward, security for the Jews in Eretz Yisra'el. Gush Emunim also demands that settlements inside the towns of Jericho, Nabulus, and Gaza be established in order to provide what they called an appropriate Zionist answer to Arab incitement.

Rabin: Slight Damage to IDF From Riot Duty

TA121250 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that the IDF's main problem right now is restoring order in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip and at the same time continuing to be prepared against the chief danger to Israel, namely the Arab countries. The defense minister was speaking at an Artillery Corps base in the south. He added that the policing duties conducted at the moment by IDF soldiers in the territories may have a minor effect on the Army's routine activity and exercises, but do not involve any real damage. Minister Rabin pointed out that IDF soldiers normally engage in a different type of activity than policing. The above was reported by our correspondent 'Eran Ban-Porat.

Anti-Riot Gear Exceeds Defense Budget Forecast

TA120535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the Defense Ministry recently purchased six water-firing armored tankers for 1.8 million shekels. The equipment will arrive in the next few days.

The General Staff's Quartermaster General Branch is currently making efforts to procure billy clubs, shields, helmets, and goggles for use during demonstrations. All this equipment required expenditures above what was forecast for the current fiscal year.

Palestinain Radio Urges Uprising in Territories

TA101229 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Jan 88 p 1

[Report by Uri Nir]

[Text] The new Palestinian radio station that has been transmitting from Lebanon for over a week now began broadcasting calls to the inhabitants of the territories to rise up, demonstrate, and protest against the Israeli authorities.

The new station broadcasts 9 hours a day (from 0900 until 1400, and from 1600 to 2000) on medium wave.

Over a week ago the station began to broadcast nationalist Palestinian songs, with the broadcaster interrupting every few minutes to read out the station's callsign in Arabic or Hebrew, as follows: "Experimental broadcast—Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab station for the liberation of land and man."

Nature of Radio Examined

TA121452 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 12 Jan 88 p 21

[Report by Gay Bekhor]

[Text] "This is Radio Al-Quds, the Arab Palestinian broadcasting station for the liberation of land and man." Every morning at 0900 these words—uttered in several languages, including Hebrew—open the transmission of the new Palestinian broadcasting station. The station was established less than a week ago, and is probably broadcasting from southern Lebanon.

Probably, since the new station does not mention its exact location, presumably fearing attack by hostile elements, Lebanese, Israeli, or others. Neither does the station state to which faction of the PLO it belongs.

In any event, it appears that the station operates out of a small building in the Palestinian Al-Hulwah refugee camp, and judging by its tone, it must belong to Yasir 'Arafat's central faction. On the other hand, one cannot dismiss the possibility that the station is broadcasting on the orders of the PLO rebel faction led by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha]. As is known, the PLO has a powerful and well-organized station which has for years been broadcasting to our region nightly from Baghdad (on mediumwave 1038 khz), but that station is subject to political censorship by the Iraqi authorities.

The situation of the new station is entirely different. For the first time since the PLO pulled out of Beirut in the summer of 1982, the organization owns an independent broadcasting station free of any control whatsoever on the part of Arab countries. The new station is called Al-Quds, which means Jerusalem, and is on the air daily from 0900 to 1400, and from 1600 to 2000. It broadcasts on a very high frequency (mediumwave 702 khz), and can be clearly received on any transistor radio.

The establishment of a radio station in a refugee camp in Lebanon is in a way a declaration of strength on the part of terrorist organizations in the area which wish to make the point that despite pressures by the IDF and the Shi'ites they are strong enough to operate a reasonably good broadcasting station. Another and more important aim is to identify themselves and to express their solidarity—be it only on the air—with the Palestinian uprising in the territories.

The Al-Quds transmissions open daily with an identification announcement in Arabic, Hebrew, English, and Spanish. The reception in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, as well as in the center of Israel is very good. Judging by the station's first week on the air it may be said that it is becoming increasingly popular, mainly due to the structure of its broadcasts.

First of all, there is music of all kinds. The songs are mostly Palestinian nationalistic pieces in various renditions, mainly by the Lebanese songstress Fayruz, but one can also hear Western singers, such as Madonna. These music programs are very popular with young Palestinians, yet it is obvious that the station's uniqueness lies in the messages which are transmitted between the songs.

A male and female announcer intermittently read out dramatic calls such as "Do not let go of the stones," "Hurl stones at the Israeli enemy," "The eyes of the entire world are turned to you, Jerusalem, and to the Palestinian rebellion," and "Victory is ours." A new slogan was added in the last 2 days: "Go at them with knives too."

Yesterday at noon the Al-Quds station announced that as of now "Nabulus and Nazareth are one," and that there is no longer a difference between the Arabs of 1948 and those of the territories. "We are all sons of the Palestinian people fighting the Israeli enemy—in Yafo, 'Akko, Ramallah, and Nusayrat."

The station does not broadcast news or commentaries. Once in a while a list of new detainees "in the heroic struggle against the Zionists" is read out.

Professionally, this is a radio station operating by the outdated methods of the 1960's, which broadcasts nationalistic music and pathos-filled announcements read out with the dramatic enhancement of a reverberation from the studio. The broadcasters repeatedly announce the station's frequency, to draw more and more listeners. The announcement includes two FM wavelengths on which we have been unable so far to receive these transmissions. Perhaps reception on those frequencies is only possible in the north of Israel.

Even though the station's importance and extent of influence should not be overrated, there is no doubt that it gives the Palestinians in the territories a considerable degree of support and legitimacy. Whether the station is operated by 'Arafat's men or by other PLO elements, it is in fact the only contact between the various factions of the PLO and the residents of the territories, a contact which was almost completely severed since the riots erupted 1 month ago.

Labor Secretary Bar'am Resigns, 'Stuns' Party

TA071910 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Labor Party Secretary 'Uzi Bar'am stunned the party bureau meeting this evening by announcing his resignation. He refused to say why he was stepping down. His resignation was immediately rejected by Labor leader Shim'on Peres and party members. [passage omitted]

Syrian Troops Wounded in Shtawrah Explosion
NC112107 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] According to reports from Al-Biqa', an explosive device has been detonated under a truck belonging to the Syrian occupation forces near the Hazim Center on the Shtawrah road. Immediately after the incident, the Syrian forces cordoned off the area and evacuated their wounded to a field hospital near the Masabki Hotel in Shtawrah. 'Atiyah Mun'im and Muhammad Salim Ahmad have been identified as among those injured in the blast.

Al-Huss Lauds UK Mellor's Position on Israel
NC081035 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today asked the Foreign Ministry to cable Ahmad al-Haj, Lebanon's ambassador in London, to meet with David Mellor, British minister of state for foreign affairs, in order to thank him on behalf of Prime Minister al-Huss for his courageous position on the Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories.

Dr al-Huss said that the British minister's decision to stick to his statement assailing the practices of the occupation forces is based on his country's policy. This prompts us to hope that Britain's position on the issue of southern Lebanon—currently on the agenda of the UN Security Council—will be on the side of justice, he said. Justice, he added, can be achieved through the termination of all arbitrary practices and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, calling for the unconditional withdrawal of the occupation forces.

Birri Rules Out Military Solution for Country
NC081116 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] In a press interview published today, Minister Nabih Birri said that resolving the situation in Lebanon militarily is out of the question and serves no interests. He reiterated his former position: He opposes holding the presidential elections before an agreement is reached on some political reforms.

Birri stated that the abolition of political sectarianism is one of the Amal Movement's demands. He also rejected the distribution of the three main posts in accordance with the 1943 formula. He added: Let them speed up the entente so that they may keep the post of the president of the Republic, for there will be no president without it.

Army Denies Sa'd Assassination Charges
NC091235 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Statement issued by the Army Command's Guidance Directorate on 9 January]

[Text] Today some media carried the news conference which Eng Mustafa Sa'd held in Sidon on 8 January 1988, in which he incriminated the military establishment in the assassination attempt on his life. He also showed a videocassette in which two Lebanese officers, whom he has been holding captive, were shown.

The Army Command categorically denies such allegations and accusations. It also affirms that the statements attributed to the two officers are not true and are part of the well-planned campaign against the national establishment, which aims to undermine the unity and coexistence among its sons.

In its eagerness to reveal the whole truth, the Army Command asks their excellencies Defense Minister 'Adil 'Uasayran and Justice Minister Attorney Nabih Birri, as well as the competent judicial authorities, to take charge of this case as it comes under their jurisdiction. The judicial authorities can request any judges and investigators to look into the matter in order to discover the truth. It is impermissible to level accusations haphazardly against innocent people for political objectives which are known and exposed.

The Army Command insists on putting an end to this case in order to rectify matters, regardless of the length of the investigations carried out by military or civilian officials.

Friday Prayers Sermons Support Palestinians
LD091406 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut, Jan. 9, IRNA—Friday prayers leader of Imam Reza (AS) Mosque of Beirut Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah on Friday said that the popular uprising of Muslim Palestinians in occupied Palestine has panicked the regional U.S.-backed regimes.

He said that the current Palestinian uprising has gravely concerned the Zionism and Western colonialism because it is based on Islamic values and its spread could start a new storm in the region as its results can be seen in Egypt, Lebanon and other neighboring countries.

Fadlallah said that the U.S. and the regimes supported by world arrogance endeavor to contain the uprising as present in order to prevent its exportation to Egypt and Lebanon so that they could quell the uprising inside the occupied Palestine in their next step.

It is not suprising, Fadlallah said, to see the U.S. and Arab kings shed 'crocodile tears' for the Palestinian nations and historically this deceptive method has been repeatedly applied by colonialists against liberation movements.

The U.S. intends to endorse the illegitimate Zionist regime by all means. He said the bombardment of Lebanese villages whose victims are mostly women and children is not brought up in any world organisation while the Americans term it 'preventive measures of Israel', Fadlallah said.

On the Maronite system in Lebanon, Allamah Fadlallah said that Lebanon's Maronite presidency has always danced to the tune of the U.S. and that the Lebanese president has now ignored the mass killings of the people by the Zionists and Lebanese sectarian army.

Allamah Fadlallah said that true Muslims are considered to be a major threat to Lebanon because they have resisted the aggression and repression of the Maronite political system and do not allow Lebanon to be exploited as 'the U.S. and Europe's farmland.' He said that Muslims have found the real way of struggle and will be not beguiled by any novel.

The new Islamic movement in the world, he noted, has rebutted established international equations and the conspirators will harvest nothing but defeat and frustration as is clearly evident in Lebanon and the occupied Palestine.

The leadership of the leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, will protect Muslims against the artifices of the world arrogance 'which will experience the bitter taste of defeat in all parts of the Middle East from the Persian Gulf to Lebanon and to Palestine,' Fadlallah stressed.

Meanwhile the Friday prayers leader of the township of Jibshit in southern Lebanon, 'Abd al-Karim Abid, said that the reactionary Arab rulers hoped that the U.S. might save them from the punishment for their hostile acts against Muslims.

Therefore, he added, they asked the U.S. to come to the region. But, Shaykh Abid said, after a short while they all found out that the U.S. is unable to challenge Islam and that now the world is witnessing Iran's capability to inflict blows on all puppet regimes despite the support to them by world's arrogant powers.

Shaykh Abid said that the PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn of Jordan who have betrayed Palestinians, and who have an old hand in trading the Palestinian cause cannot be supported by Palestinian ummah who are determined to become the master of their own fate.

Reports from Sidon, Tyre, Nabatiyah and other Muslim-populated areas in Lebanon say that worshippers at the Friday prayers yesterday chanted anti-Zionist and pro-Palestinian slogans.

The inhabitants of 'Ayn al-Hulwah, (Maymeh) and people from Sidon in a sit-in in the mosques announced their solidarity with rising Muslim Palestinians in the occupied lands and emphasized that Palestine will not be liberated unless fighting against the Zionist regime continues.

In the meantime, the Friday prayers leader of northern Lebanese port of Tripoli Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban who is also head of the Islamic Tawhid Movement supported the uprising of Palestinian Muslims in the occupied territories, Friday.

Shaykh Sha'ban said that the 'lackeys of the world arrogance' are increasingly concerned about 'this new volcano' which is 'the springboard for putting an end to the illegitimate rule of the Zionist regime.'

He said that all Muslims heartily support the uprising and said that the past experiences reveal that the army of blasphemy will not be defeated unless the 'weapon of faith' is employed against them.

He said that the oppressed people of Palestine who have experienced years of torture and homelessness are now witnessing the worst treacherous acts by those who claim to support them and that the Palestinians are to make good on their past deeds relying on Islam.

The 'incarcerated' Palestine is on the brink of a new Islamic revolution which will bring down all 'houses of oppression' and will repeat its honorable history and deal a crushing blow on treacherous Arabs by relying on Islam's liberative principles.

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban said that the reactionary Arabs have victimized the Palestinians more than have done the Zionists, and that they are out to "supress the Iranians' outcry for uprooting oppression."

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban denounced current efforts for papering over the Palestinian issue in the so-called international peace conference, adding that a hand extending to the Zionists and the world arrogance for solving the Palestinian issue will be a helping hand solely to the aggressor himself.

All mosques and Palestinian camps in Tripoli, Iran correspondent in Lebanon said, were scenes of mass sympathy with Muslim Palestinians' uprising.

A large group of Muslims from northern Lebanese camps gathered at the Red Cross Bureau in Tripoli Friday and condemned the crimes of the Zionist regime.

Khaddam-Al-Shar' Tour Seeks To 'Cool' Region

PM111449 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jan 88 p 1

[Zaki Musa report: "According to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Information From Damascus: A Gulf-Iran Meeting Soon"]

[Text] London, Kuwait, agencies—Informed Syrian circles have revealed that the aim of the current Gulf states tour of Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who are delivering messages from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to the leaders of the Gulf states they are visiting, is to "cool" the hot atmosphere in the region, coordinate efforts and attitudes, and bridge [divergent] views to promote the desired practical solutions that would end the tension between the two adversaries in the Iraq-Iran war.

These circles maintain that Khaddam and Al-Shar' are trying to pave the way for a meeting between the GCC states and Iran, particularly in the wake of the GCC Riyadh summit statement underlining the need to speed up a settlement that would end the war which threatens to extend to other regions and following Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati's statement on Iranian television last Thursday welcoming the GCC declaration when he said that "any contacts with the GCC would be in line and in harmony with Iran's policy of good-neighborliness in the Gulf."

The informed Syrian circles have confirmed that the purpose of the Syrian contacts on various levels is to get an agreement on a date for the meeting and draw up a prior framework for negotiations. They have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that, although no date has yet been set, the meeting will take place soon, that the venue will most likely be Damascus, and that the meeting will be attended by the foreign ministers of the states involved.

The Syrian circles stressed that "the Syrian efforts in this connection stem from President Hafiz al-Asad's conviction that dialogue is the only way to contain the war, prevent its expansion, and resolve and permanently eliminate the entire crisis. This does not mean we are acting as mediators between two sides, but rather acting out of firm conviction that all resources should be geared to fighting the Zionist enemy who has usurped territory and holy places." They recalled Syria's known position, that of being opposed to any aggression against or occupation of any Arab territory and that it is prepared to send its own Army to fight any power which threatens the security and safety of the region's states.

The Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah yesterday received a message from President Hafiz al-Asad, delivered by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who also met with Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah later yesterday.

Chemical Weapons Charge Part of 'Campaign'

JN111630 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 11 Jan 88

[From the "On the Events" program: "The Motives of the New Campaign Against Syria Marketed by Imperialist Circles and the Zionist Enemy" by Yusuf Maqdisi]

[Text] In the latest issue of the British paper THE SUNDAY TIMES is a report on Syria's intention to manufacture a nerve gas and Israel's consideration of a military or other response to the situation arising from the development of such means for military use. This report is part of the suspect campaigns waged against Syria every now and then to intimidate and exert pressure on it, often preparing world public opinion for a new aggression against it on the pretext of preventing a tip in the balance of power in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The proof for this assertion is that the Zionist enemy echoed the British paper's report and began to talk about growing Syrian power and Syria's receiving very sophisticated weapons. The Zionist enemy also referred to the military plans it is studying and preparing to deal with the resulting situation and a response to it. Although the latest threats to Syria are not new and will not be the last, it is necessary to point to three important matters that lie behind such an organized campaign being waged against Syria by imperialist circles in the West and the Zionist enemy.

The first is Syria's steadfastness in the face of the big disinformation campaign by the NATO powers and Israel to brand Syria with the stigma of terrorism and to try to compel it to change its firm national and pan-Arab political stands in confronting U.S.-Zionist schemes for containment represented in particular by the Camp David accords and policy. Syria has been successful in aborting that rabid campaign and in persuading the world of the need to convene an international conference to distinguish between terrorism, which Syria rejects and condemns, and peoples' struggle for liberation, which Syria supports and backs. That has been supported by the UN General Assembly in its latest session.

The second matter is connected with the failure of the Camp David parties to gain acceptance for their policy in the Arab arena and to find alternatives to the Arab-Israeli conflict that put an end to the Palestinian cause and compel the Arabs to totally succumb to U.S.-Zionist hegemony.

The third matter is connected with the present dilemma facing the Zionist enemy more than 1 month after the uprising in the occupied territory and the reaction to that uprising within the Zionist entity. The uprising spread to the Palestinian territory occupied in 1948. The enemy's security policy based on occupation and the attempt to turn it into a fait accompli cracked. At the same time the line of struggle extending from southern Lebanon, to the

Golan, to the Palestinian territory, to Egypt has become entrenched, forming a strategic flank that has begun to impose its facts upon the arena of struggle.

In view of the fact Syria constitutes the main power supporting that tendency for struggle in the conflict with the Zionist enemy, imperialist circles and the Zionist enemy have all begun their new campaign against Syria and their search for what they refer to as available options in facing the situation arising from Syria's growing power.

In light of the above, the Zionist enemy's threats of aggression are a kind of escape from his internal dilemma, which is exacerbating with the growth of the uprising in the occupied territory and its spread to other areas of the Camp David parties, particularly the Egyptian regime. The Egyptian regime is beginning to face a state of unrest that points to new developments in Egypt.

Commentary Notes Efforts To End Gulf War

JN111657 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad's messages to the leaders of a number of Arabian Gulf countries conveyed by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam have drawn the attention of political and media regional, as well as international, circles interested in developments in the region. Commentaries on and analyses of these messages and Khaddam's talks with the leaders of the fraternal Arabian Gulf countries were sometimes right and sometimes senseless. This negative or positive interest in Syria's activities in the Gulf region is based on Syria's positions, Arab and international relations, weight in the region, and its effect on regional developments.

Those who are concerned about the region's countries, peoples, safety, security, and independence welcome without reservation Syria's efforts to distance the region from dangers, achieve the goals and aspirations of the region's peoples, and settle current disputes to serve the goals of national liberation movements and the battles of the region's peoples—foremost of which are the Arab people—against Zionism and imperialism. But those who want to involve the region in internal differences to give a free hand to imperialism and Zionism to occupy the land, usurp its wealth, and exploit the region's strategic position will never be satisfied with or reassured about Syria's initiatives and activity, because any success of Syria's initiatives will curb the imperialist and Zionist conspiracies and will create new situations that can lead to dialogue, discussions, and contacts among the brothers and allies who are against imperialism and Zionism in the region.

Regarding the Gulf crisis and the Iraq-Iran war, Syria took a clear-cut, principled, and firm position from the beginning. This position is based on a firm commitment to peoples' right to self-determination and to liberate their land, restore their rights, defend themselves, and use all their energies against their real enemy. Therefore, Syria was against the Iraq-Iran war, which will only benefit Israel and imperialism. From the beginning, Syria also called for ending it and directing all the energies of the Arabs, their allies, and friendly countries against imperialism and its strategic ally in the region.

Syria also used its relations and prestige to prevent any expansion of the war to other Gulf countries not involved in fighting and called for distancing foreigners from the Gulf, searching for solutions to differences, and securing permanent safety for the Gulf countries within the framework of relations of cooperation, good-neighborliness, and good intentions instead of violence, mutual provocations, and foreign interference, which will not benefit anyone or protect any interests in the region except those of the ones who want to impose their hegemony over the region and its peoples.

Syria's efforts have been continuing in order to find a solution to the Gulf problem so as to use Arab energies and efforts in the Arabs' principal battles against the Zionist enemy, whose expansionist ambitions affect all Arab countries. Syria will also continue its efforts in the future because any new situation in which the Arabs and the friendly countries can mobilize their energies to confront Israel will be in the pan-Arab interest and will foil the Zionist and imperialist strategy aimed at distracting the Arabs' attention from their cause and involving them in conflicts to waste their energies and capabilities and place them at the mercy of their enemies.

Afghanistan

News Conference on Guillo 'Espionage' Activity

LD111950 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Undeniable evidence, documents and the confessions of Alain Guillo, a citizen of France, who entered Afghanistan illegally and secretly, clearly show that he was deliberately and with great interest involved in espionage and antigovernment activities in the Republic of Afghanistan. This evidence and these documents were shown to domestic and foreign journalists at a news conference organized at the Ariana Hotel in Kabul, and information on this issue was presented.

During the conference, organized by the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of State Security, and the Revolutionary Court replied to questions from journalists and provided comprehensive information on this matter.

BIA reports that at the end of the conference a statement from BIA about Alain Guillo's secret and illegal trips and his espionage in the Republic of Afghanistan was read. The journalists were shown the evidence and documents, asd well as the video of his confessions.

BIA on Foreign Journalists

LD120930 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, January 11, BAKHTAR—On September 13, 1987, a group of former opponents who had joined the people's sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan under the impact of the policy of national reconciliation handed over to the security organs Alain Guillo, French citizen, who in company with the extremist groups had entered Afghanistan illegally and secretly nine times since 1980. Following is a statement released at a press conference held by BAKHTAR here today.

The statement runs: There is undeniable evidence showing that, during his [Guillo's] secret and illegal trips, he had accompanied and guided a number of other agents from the United States, Pakistan and some conservative Arab countries.

Alain Guillo embarked upon the collection of sensitive information on military activities; data and figures on the specifications of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan and its tactics; the location of military posts; routes for the movement of weapons and munitions; the strategic positions of the regiments; and the provision of maps indicating the industrial establishments in Afghanistan.

Twenty-six topographic maps with strict coordinates were obtained from Alain Guillo. The assessment of these maps and the information on it indicate that these maps are merely used for military purposes.

These documents and other evidence shows that Alain Guillo has resorted to activities against the state of the Republic of Afghanistan which jeopardize the latter's security. During his trips, Alain Guillo determined the requirements of the opposition groups for weapons, such as Stinger and Blowpipe missiles, and took part in the preparation of films with forged scenarios.

The evidence shows that before infiltrating the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan, Alain Guillo established direct contacts with the Embassy of France in Islamabad.

The particulars of Alain Guillo's activities in the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan indicate that the imperialist countries which adopt a hostile position not only continue to intensify the undeclared war, to equip and arm the opposition extremist groups, but also expand the dimensions of their intervention by sending agents and military advisers for achieving their saboteur objectives against the Republic of Afghanistan.

The involvement of these persons in recent confrontations in Khowst grand district can be pointed out as an example.

The perpetration of these acts by circles of imperialist and reactionary countries is, on the one hand, a gross violation of all accepted norms and regulations in international relations and, on the other hand, is an open breach of the principles of the existing relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and other countries.

As far as journalists are concerned, it must be clear that the journalists, photo-reporters, and other individuals, who are interested in studying Afghanistan and the prevailing situation in the country, are invited to refer to the diplomatic missions of the Republic of Afghanistan in the friendly countries to receive official visas. Necessary facilities are provided to those who have visited Afghanistan in this way.

In the past year since the announcement of national reconciliation, two hundred seventy journalists from foreign countries have visited Afghanistan.

Of course, those who do not have any other objectives but committing subversive activities against the Republic of Afghanistan are engaged in violating the rules of the Republic of Afghanistan and accepted international norms and principles and visit Afghanistan merely in this manner (like Alain Guillo). [sentence as received]

Under the conditions when the policy of national reconciliation is under way in the Republic of Afghanistan all efforts are concentried for ever-faster cessation of war and normalisation of situation around Afghanistan.

Anyone who is in favour of humanitarian assistance to the cause of peace and acquisition of facts will naturally endeavour to keep on such actions, not disturbing it.

Reiterating its announcement of November 29, 1987 which was published by mass media, BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY is authorized to declare that there are authentic information stating that the opposition extremist groups have been given strict instructions that in case they are not able to withdraw foreign citizens from the scene of an incidence the foreign citizens should be killed not to become captive at the hand of Armed Forces. In this case the government of the Republic of Afghanistan can not provide for the security of foreign citizens who enter Afghanistan secretly and illegally especially in the composition of the extremist armed groups in violation of the regulations of Afghanistan and of international norms.

We once again call on the social circles particularly on the journalists of Western countries including the social circles and French journalists to understand the grave results and consequences of the activities of foreign citizens who illegally infiltrate into Afghanistan and not to allow such persons to spoil the name of journalists and the profession of journalism, the statement concludes.

UN's Ermacora Continues Tour, Visits Khowst

Briefed on Returnees

LD101901 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Text] Professor Felix Ermacora, special rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commission and head of a delegation, visited Khowst district yesterday. He is busy preparing a report on the human rights situation in Afghanistan.

During his visit to Khowst, Prof Ermacora met with the commanders of Khowst division and the Sarandoy and with the governor of Khowst major district. During this meeting he was briefed on the situation in the district.

In addition, Professor Ermacora met with the head of the national reconciliation commission, the head of the Islamic affairs and endowment department, and with a returnee. He asked questions about the assistance which has been provided by the state for the return of refugees as well as about the obstacles placed in the way of refugees wanting to return from neighboring countries. On each issue information was given to him by the relevant authorities.

Received by Najibullah

LD111709 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] In his office this morning, esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, received Professor Felix Ermacora, special rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commission.

Prof Ermacora took this opportunity to express his thanks for the facilities which have been provided to him and his delegation by the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan in preparing a report on the human rights situation in Afghanistan.

UN Press Statement

LD112108 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Professor Felix Ermacora, special rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commission, who headed a delegation to Kabul to prepare a report on the human rights situation in Afghanistan, left today for Delhi. A number of personnel from the Foreign Affairs Ministry and the head of the UN development department in the Republic of Afghanistan bade farewell to Prof Ermacora and his delegation.

During his 1-week visit to the Republic of Afghanistan, Prof Felix Ermacora visited the provinces of Herat, Qandahar, Nangarhar, and Khowst district. He carried out a series of studies on compliance with and the implementation of the decrees on the release and pardon of prisoners, restoring the properties of returnees, and other decrees and resolutions by the Council of Ministers in connection with ensuring favorable conditions for refugee compatriots' return to the country and implementing the national reconciliation policy. He talked to and exchanged views with the relevant authorities on pertinent issues.

At the end of his second visit to the Republic of Afghanistan, the special rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commission released the following press statement to our country's mass media. The statement is being disseminated simultaneously in Kabul and Delhi:

The special rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commission has ended his visit to Afghanistan. Prof Felix Ermacora, special rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commission ended his second visit to Afghanistan on 11 January 1988.

The special rapporteur arrived in Kabul from Austria on 5 January 1988. His visit took place on the basis of Resolution 58/1987 of the 42d session of the UN General Assembly and under the continuing cooperation of Afghanistan as expressed by his excellency, esteemed 'Abdul Wakil, foreign affairs minister of Afghanistan on 4 March 1987.

The special rapporteur was received during his visit by the president of Afghanistan. He met with the deputy prime minister, who also heads the State Committee for Returnee Affairs, as well as with the foreign affairs and justice ministers. He talked with high-ranking Interior Ministry officials and with officials in charge of prisoners. The special rapporteur talked with the chairman of the National Front, who is also responsible for the Loya

Jirgah, and the chairman of the Supreme Commission for National Reconciliation as well as with former members of the working committee for drafting the Constitution.

In addition to these, the special rapporteur met with a number of officials who are concerned with humanitarian affairs, including the secretary general of the Afghan Red Cross [Afghani Sera Measht].

In connection with the return of Afghanistan's subjects to the homeland, the special rapporteur toured a number of the country's border regions. He visited (?Nel) village, Spin Buldak region, near Pakistan's border; Qandahar Province; the Eslam Qal'eh border area near the Islamic Republic of Iran; Herat Province; and the Jalalabad and Towr Kham border areas.

The special rapporteur also visited Khowst city in Paktia Province. The special rapporteur met with local officials, religious leaders, and other official authorities, and held conversations with a large number of people from various segments of society. He visited Jalalabad University.

The special rapporteur wishes to express sincere gratitude to local and national government authorities for their indefatigable efforts to make possible requested visits to the regions despite the long distances and weather conditions, as well as to arrange meetings with those authorities who made it possible for him to gain broader knowledge on the human rights situation in Afghanistan. He also was grateful for the efforts and work of these authorities in this connection.

Ermacora Leaves For Delhi

LD111717 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Professor Ermacora, special rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commission, who came to Kabul as head of a delegation to prepare a report on the human rights situation in Afghanistan, left today for Delhi.

A number of personnel from the Foreign Affairs Ministry and the head of the UN Development Department in the Republic of Afghanistan saw off Prof Ermacora and his accompanying delegation.

12th Supply Convoy Arrives in Khowst 10 Jan

LD101912 Kabul Domestic Sevice in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Excerpt] In line with the delivery of foodstuffs and consumer goods to Khowst major district, the 12th supply convoy arrived today carrying 1,244 tonnes of goods on 180 transportation vehicles.

According to a BIA correspondent's report from Gardeyz city, during the last 12 days, 15,229 tonnes of foodstuffs and consumer goods have arrived in Khowst major district on 1,637 transport vehicles, and 1,002 families, comprising 10,000 persons, have benefited from these goods. [passage omitted]

Supplies Distributed

LD091940 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Today the delivery of foodstuffs and consumer goods began from the center of Khowst district to the districts of (Zazimaydan) and Tani and the subdistricts of Nader Shah Kowt, Esmael Khey, Gorbaz, Ya'qubi, Bak, and (Trayzai).

Wheat, sugar, tea, soap, shoes, clothes, and other foodstuffs and consumer goods are included in these supply convoys. A BIA correspondent reported from Gardeyz city that in line with the arrival of foodstuffs and consumer goods to Khowst district, 838 metric tons of goods arrived today at this district on 140 transportation vehicles.

The BIA report from Gardeyz city adds that with the arrival of the 11th supply convoy to Khowst district, prices have decreased noticeably. [passage omitted]

Mujahidin Cut Supply Line to Khowst, Gardeyz

BK121124 Hong Kong AFP in English 1105 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 12 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin have blocked a key supply route to the government towns of Gardeyz and Khowst amid reports that the Soviet Union wants to keep the newly-captured road between them open through the winter, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

Soviet-Afghan forces are establishing new posts near Khowst and troops are still being attacked by the mujahidin resistance fighters, whose eight-year siege of the town was broken this month, the diplomats said.

The new posts and those set up along the Gardeyz-Khowst road after the siege was broken suggests an intention to keep the strategic highway open through the winter, they said.

Apparently to thwart this, the mujahidin have cut the Logar-Paktia road from Kabul, along which supplies are sent to Gardeyz and the forces fighting for Khowst, the diplomats said.

None of the previously almost-daily Soviet-Afghan convoys have passed along this road since Thursday, they said.

The convoys have instead had to use a longer route to the west, passing south of Gardeyz then turning back up to it. But this is also dangerous because it passes through an area of frequent mujahidin ambushes, the diplomats said.

Soviet-Afghan forces normally fight their way to besieged garrisons to resupply them for the winter before retreating until spring, they said.

Trying to keep the Gardeyz-Khowst road open all winter would be a "costly and risky enterprise" and the attempt appears "motivated by perceived political as well as military requirements", they added.

This "may yeflect the Soviet determination not to allow the mujahidin to score a propaganda coup" in advance of indirect, or proximity talks in Geneva by closing the road once again, they observed.

But the diplomats were very cautious about the possible outcome of the United Nations-mediated talks.

"We don't know what the Russians have to say," remarked one.

There are "a lot of key issues" that could give the Soviets a good excuse not to withdraw their forces and many "preliminaries" have not been settled, the diplomat said.

Questions concerning transitional arrangements and assistance to Afghanistan after a Soviet withdrawal remained unanswered, diplomats said.

Afghan refugees want to return in "safety and honour", which they would not do if the rebels were fighting communist party supporters, they added.

Islamabad can put pressure on mujahidin leaders based in Pakistan, but it cannot do the same with guerrilla commanders in Afghanistan, they observed.

The Soviet Union has said it would withdraw after the United States ended its support to the mujahidin and the diplomats said Tuesday Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's previously unannounced visit to Kabul last week was aimed at conveying Moscow's message.

There is speculation that the visit, during which the Soviet delegation held separate meetings with Afghan leaders and officials, was to ensure that the Soviet message has been properly received in Kabul, they said.

A statement by Mr. Shevardnadze that "no one claim a monopoly of power" has given rise to speculation about Afghan President Najibullah's future, the diplomats said, noting his activities have received little coverage since then.

Resistance Member on Shevardnadze Proposal

AU082129 Vienna Television Service in German 2100 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Interview with Sarajuddin Rasuli, representative of the Afghan opposition, by Austrian television moderator Thomas Fuhrmann in Vienna on 7 January—recorded]

[Text] [Fuhrmann] How do you assess the Soviet proposal to withdraw troops? How seriously do you take this offer?

[Rasuli] The offer by the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops, as proposed by Shevardnadze, or at least to talk about it, contains new elements, as has been pointed out. Mr Shevardnadze speaks of a coalition government, but this time he does not speak of a government under the leadership of the Soviet regime, as has also been mentioned by General Secretary Gorbachev in his perestroiyka. I am hoping for a coalition government made up of those Afghans who fought for freedom and who do not want a coalition with the communists. Otherwise there will be problems, because the Afghan movement is not only fighting against the occupation of Afghanistan, but also against a regime that has caused so much suffering and that has basically also involved the Soviets in the war. This regime is no negotiating partner for the Afghans.

[Fuhrmann] This means that the problem that has to be solved now is the formation of an interim government, and it has to be settled whether both the current regime and the resistance will be represented in this interim government. The resistance is demanding a government made up of only the resistance.

[Rasuli] Yes. The resistance is of the opinion that only the Afghan people who have fought against the regime and against the Soviet troops should be included. In the media, the Afghan movement is often depicted as separated from the Afghan people. This is not true. The Afghan people support the Afghan movement. Of course there are differences of opinion within a movement and among a people.

[Fuhrmann] I must explain this to the viewers. The opposition, the resistance, is quite split up. There are seven groups altogether.

[Rasuli] We have to be glad that there are different organizations in Afghanistan, also in the Islamic Movement of Afghanistan. This represents an element of democracy. They have joined forces under the leadership of Mawlawi Yunis Khalis who has been elected for 18 months. But these organizations we are talking about are one part of the Afghan movement, of the Afghan society. There are the young commanders in Afghanistan, the different tribe leaders, the different ethnic groups, and different nationalities. This means that different elements are involved in this movement. And if the Soviet Union is basically ready to speak with the Afghan movement an agreement will be reached.

[Fuhrmann] Mr Rasuli, thank you very much for your visit.

1987 Soviet, Government Combat Losses Noted

LD091130 Tehran IRNA in English 0836 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] London, Jan 9, IRNA—An annual survey by AFGHAN AGENCE-PRESSE (AAP) in Pakistan shows that joint Afghan-Soviet casualties increased by 10.7 percent in the 8th year of the Afghan war.

The survey said that 9,217 Soviet-Afghan soldiers died in clashes with mujahidin in 1987, 52 percent of whom were Soviets. Meanwhile, 2,059 mujahidin were also martyred, a 4 percent increase compared with 1986, and 3,158 others injured.

The defection of Afghan Army officers to the mujahidin rose to 4,781 during last year, while 1,913 were quoted as surrendering and even a greater number deserting.

According to the report, the Soviets lost 251 planes, 211 helicopters, 813 tanks and armoured personnel carriers, 1,262 oil tankers, supply trucks and military vehicles, in 1987.

The Afghan resistance fighters captured 257 heavy machine guns, artillery pieces and other heavy weapons, as well as 8,128 automatic rifles during their last year's operations.

An estimated number of 22,294 Afghan civilians were martyred, 90 percent of whom being women, children and old men and 24,671 others were seriously injured. Listed among Soviet-Afghan Army destructions throughout the country were 2,622 houses, mosques and places of religious significance, with the highest toll in the second largest city of Qandahar which is now in ruins.

In this year Afghan mujahidin stepped up their operations in Kabul and even launched attacks on Soviet troops in the mountains and valleys of Tajikistan and the deserts of Turkmenistan.

These attacks forced the Soviets to set up numerous watch-towers, put up barbed wire and deploy a large number of troops along their border to counter future operations of the mujahidin.

Leftist Parties Discuss Political Platform

LD100757 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] The Presidential Office reports that a joint session of the leadership delegations of the PDPA, the Revolutionary Organization of Afghanistan's Toilers, and the Afghanistan Toilers Organization was held today at 1600.

At this session talks were held on the need to formulate a political platform for the unity of the leftist parties in the Republic of Afghanistan, as well as on a series of other issues. Specific agreements were reached on these issues.

Chamkani, Kawiani Attend Foreign Affairs Session

LD092034 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] A periodical session of the Permanent Commission for Foreign Affairs of the Revolutionary Council of the Republic of Afghanistan was held this afternoon at Gol Khanah Palace, the presidential headquarters of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The session was held under the leadership of Haji Muhammad Chamkani, head of the Permanent Commission for Foreign Affairs of the Revolutionary Council. Najmuddin Kawiani, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, participated.

In accordance with a previous plan, the reports by the Ministries of Transport and Civil Aviation on the assistance of foreign countries and international and nongovernmental organizations, and its use in the projects concerned, by their respective ministers were heard and studied comprehensively.

The commission stated that in order to improve, develop, and expand the situation of transportation and civil aviation, the Ministries of Transport and Civil Aviation have received much assistance from foreign countries and from international organizations, particularly from the friendly Soviet Union, and have used this assistance in their relevant projects.

Despite the work completed, shortcomings could be seen in attracting this assistance. The commission approved a directive for the removal of these shortcomings.

Kawiani, Sharq Meet With UK Parliamentarians

LD091157 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, January 8, BAKHTAR—Najmuddin Kawiani, Politburo member of the PDPA Central Committee, met with the British parliamentary delegation headed by Ronald Brown, chairman of the British-Afghan Friendship Society.

During the meeting, matters relating to the growth and expansion of relations between the social circles of the two countries were discussed.

The British parliamentary delegation met with Dr. Hasan Sharq, deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Committee for Repatriates Affairs and chairman of the special revolutionary court separately.

Matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meetings.

Bangladesh

Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Begins Visit

BK111612 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Hungarian deputy foreign minister, Dr Nagy Gabor, arrived in Dhaka today on a 3-day visit to Bangladesh. Talking to newsmen in the airport, he said Dhaka-Budapest ties have grown steadily ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Dr Gabor stressed on a greater economic cooperation between the two countries and said he will hold talks with Bangladesh officials on bilateral cooperation. He expressed the hope that his talks would help reach better understanding between the two countries on other issues of mutual interest.

Dr Gabor was received at the airport by Deputy Foreign Minister Wajid Ali Khan Punny.

Feted in Dhaka 11 Jan

BK120245 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] The deputy foreign minister, Mr Wajid Ali Khan Punny, has reiterated Bangladesh's call for establishing a restructured world economic order based on justice and sovereign equality of nations. He was speaking at a dinner hosted in honor of the visiting Hungarian deputy foreign minister, Mr Nagy Gabor, in Dhaka last night. Referring to different world issues, like apartheid, situation in the Middle East, and Gulf conflict, he said the two countries have been working in concert for world peace and stability. The minister recalled the assistance given by Hungary during our liberation war and the economic assistance extended to help rebuild our economy. Mr Punny expressed hope that the visit of Dr Gabor will further promote the existing warm relations between the two countries.

Earlier, on his arrival in Dhaka yesterday, Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Gabor told newsmen that Dhaka-Budapest (?ties) have grown steadily ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. He stressed the need for greater economic cooperation between the two countries and said he will hold talks with Bangladesh officials on bilateral cooperation.

Dr Gabor visited the Jatiya Sriti Saudha [National Matyrs Memorials] at Sawar yesterday and placed wreaths to pay respect to the martyrs of the liberation war.

Opposition Wants Polls Under Neutral Government

BK100410 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Text] The leader of the combined opposition party, Mr A.S.M. Abdur Rab, has warned that any attempt to foil the democratic process could result in a confrontation which will not be good for any quarter. He said anybody has the right to participate in or stay away from the elections, but none should impose opinion on others as this will never help to establish democracy.

The leaders of the 23-party alliance have said the people will not accept any attempt to foil the constitutional process. In a meeting in Dhaka yesterday, they stressed the need for holding elections as per schedule.

The Awami League chief and leader of the eight-party alliance, Sheikh Hasina, has said the opposition parties are not opposed to elections but they want the polls under a neutral government acceptable to all the political parties and the alliances. Speaking at a meeting of representatives of the Jatiya Sramik League in Dhaka yesterday, she said the opposition cannot participate in the elections under the present government.

The central working committee of the Jamiat-i Islami at a meeting in Dhaka yesterday reiterated the demand for holding the parliamentary polls under a neutral caretaker government.

Secretary General of the Communist Party, Saifuddin Ahmed Manek, has reiterated their demand for withdrawal of emergency, curfew, and release of all the political prisoners.

Bangladesh INGD [expansion unknown] federation president, Advocate Abu Saleh, has called for enactment of new elections rules to enable the honest and patriotic people to get themselves elected to the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament]. A joint meeting of representatives of different professional organizations presided over by Barrister Shaukat Ali demanded the holding of the parliamentary polls under a neutral caretaker government acceptable to the opposition.

India

Reagan Clearing Way for Military Aid to Pakistan
BK111610 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] President Reagan has cleared the way for the new U.S. military and economic aid worth more than $4 billion for Pakistan. He certified to the Congress today that Pakistan does not possess any nuclear weapons despite growing indications of Islamabad's active pursuit of such weapons.

Latest reports from the West say Pakistan has begun construction of a second uranium enrichment plant at Gondra near Islamabad. The first plant is situated at Kahuta. The clean chit given by Mr Reagan to Pakistan removes the last major hurdle in the flow of arms and economic aid to Islamabad under the new package. A wide range of military hardware is also expected to be pumped into Pakistan under the new terms of assistance.

Gandhi Confers on Current Sri Lanka Situation
BK111608 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, held consultations with the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, in New Delhi today. They are understood to have discussed the situation in Sri Lanka. The Indian high commissioner to Sri Lanka, Mr J.N. Dixit, was also present.

Paper Urges Review of Policy on Sri Lanka
BK090330 Delhi PATRIOT in English 26 Dec 87 p 4

[Editorial: "Tougher Lanka Task"]

[Text] Two widely mourned deaths, occurring within 48 hours, have added to the already forbidding dimensions of the Sri Lankan porblem, especially for this country. If the brutal assassination in Colombo on Wednesday of ruling United National Party Chairman Harsha Abeywardene signalled escalation of the offensive against any attempts at resolving the problem, the passing away in Madras the next day of M.G. Ramachandran [MGR] takes away a major Indian leader who largely insulated Tamil Nadu from the more harmful fallout of the island's conflict. Together, the twin tragedies create a new situation that needs to be squarely faced by all forces concerned over recent developments in this regard, particularly New Delhi.

What the killing of Mr Abeywardene signified should be clear enough. What has followed leaves little doubt that the crime was intended as a precursor to a major Sinhala-chauvinist eruption. This has been illustrated not merely by the incidents of violence staged openly by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP] but, even more ominously, by the revolt within the ruling camp itself. The virulence of the attack made on the J.R. Jayewardene regime by Finance Minister Ronnie De Mel, while calling for a truce with the banned JVP, is as unmistakable as the viciousness of the insinuation in his remark that "we might have to ask the Pakistan Army to come to the south (of Sri Lanka)". Combined—and, not implausibly, coordinated—with the still raging hostilities in the Tamil-dominated north and the east, this cannot but add to the difficulties of implementing the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement of 29 July, in which this country has undertaken such a large role. The task has, meanwhile, been rendered even more arduous by the departure from the Tamil Nadu scene of a leader whose unquestioned hold on the State's people has helped to keep the Sri Lankan impact of the conflict within manageable limits. The attempts unremittingly made by an array of forces, including sizable sections of the Opposition as well as the ruling AIADMK, to make political capital of the problem have provided sufficient pointers to possible post-MGR prospects in this regard. Contenders for power are not likely to show greater restraint on the subject.

The increased complexity of the task ahead in Sri Lanka deserves unblinkered recognition by the Union Government. The change wrought by the two events, in fact, provides an occasion for a review of the policy pursued and action carried out thus far in furtherance of the agreement's objectives.

Gandhi Reportedly To Visit Beijing in Summer
BK111538 Bombay NAVBAHARAT TIMES in Hindi 2 Jan 88 p 1

[By special correspondent]

[Text] High-level discussions are being held in New Delhi to consider ways to normalize Sino-Indian relations. It is proposed to give a new image and a new direction to bilateral cooperation for this purpose.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi will pay a goodwill visit to Beijing this summer. Talks between the two governments will begin next month to discuss the details of this significant visit. The leader of the Chinese delegation at the recently concluded official talks [in New Delhi] extended an official invitation to Mr Gandhi to visit his country, which he has accepted.

First official level and then ministerial level talks in Beijing will precede the prime minister's visit to China. During these talks, the groundwork for Mr Gandhi's visit will be laid. The ministerial level talks will also discuss details of Sino-Indian cooperation and ways to find a solution to the border dispute.

What has been proposed is the concluding of an extensive agreement covering economic, trade, technical, science, civil aviation, transport, and industrial sectors. Knowledgeable sources are of the opinion that this bilateral cooperation could be further reinforced and expanded.

The newly appointed general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, Mr Zhao Ziyang, and new Prime Minister Li Peng are currently visiting different parts of the country. They will assume their new offices in February, after which consultations will begin on the holding of political talks and on Mr Gandhi's visit. Mr Li Peng was the deputy prime minister in Mr Zhao's cabinet.

It is said that the governments of both countries are in favor of a package deal to settle the border dispute. However, no talks have been held on the details of such a package. The top Chinese leader, Mr Deng Xiaoping, had proposed a package deal in 1981 which envisaged a line of control in the Ladakh region [after the 1962 border war] as the basis for settling the dispute. In exchange, China would forfeit its claim in the eastern region. But no talks could be held on this.

The External Affairs Ministry is of the opinion that it is essential to create understanding and goodwill in Sino-Indian ties. The prime minister's visit would prove very useful in this regard. The former prime minister of China, Chou Enlai, visited India four times before 1962. Former prime minister of India, Jawahar Lal Nehru, visited Beijing in 1954. Mr Rajiv Gandhi will be the second prime minister to visit China since then.

It is expected that two or three agreements will be signed during the prime minister's proposed visit. A protocol on consular matters for economic and trade cooperation will also be concluded under which India in Shanghai and China in Calcutta or Bombay will open their trade offices. Talks have been held on this subject.

PRC Geology Minister Meets Counterpart

BK120510 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] A six-member Chinese delegation led by the Minister for Geology and Minerals, Mr Zhu Xun, had a meeting with the minister of steel and minerals, Mr M.L. Fotedar, in New Delhi today. During the meeting, which lasted for 90 minutes, they discussed bilateral cooperation in mining and related fields. The Chinese minister also invited Mr Fotedar to visit his country.

USSR Offers Latest Steel Industry Technology

BK120345 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] The Soviet Union has offered to provide the latest technology to modernize India's steel industry. In an interview with a news agency, the Soviet minister for ferrous metallurgy, Mr S.V. Kolpakov, said his country is eager to pursue new forms of cooperation with India. Moscow is also ready for joint production in Third World countries. He said New Delhi can make use of the vast experience of the Soviet steel specialists for the development of steel industry.

Two 'Terrorists' Killed in Punjab 11 Jan

BK111250 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] In Punjab, two terrorists were killed in an encounter with the police in Jandiala area in Amritsar District this morning. The killed terrorists have been identified as Daya Singh and Balbir Singh Tunda. According to an official spokesman, the encounter followed the raids on the terrorists' hideouts.

Police Companies Refuse To Serve in Darjeeling

BK090250 Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Dec 87 p 6

[By Ashis Barman]

[Text] Calcutta, Dec 29—While West Bengal Home Secretary N. Krishnamurty has urged the Union Home Ministry to rush more paramilitary forces to tackle the growing GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] violence in Darjeeling, the State administration has been embarrassed by the rufusal of two companies of Calcutta Armed Police (CAP) to serve in Darjeeling.

The CAP companies were sent to Darjeeling, in the wake of the withdrawal of eight companies of CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] contingent by the Centre, on 13 December. Reports said the CAP on reaching Darjeeling, refused to take orders on the plea of being "not accustomed to working in hilly terrain". According to the home secretary, lack of operational training to serve the hilly area was indeed a problem for the CAP. The companies were sent back to Calcutta within two days.

On an earlier occasion also the Calcutta Armed Police had shown a tendency to indulge in indiscipline, according to police sources. According to these sources, unionisation of the police forces and sharp differences between the CPI-M and Congress influenced police unions. This has created problems for maintaining discipline. For instance, it is being hinted that though by and large the CAP contingent is known to be under the influence of the CPI-M, individuals of its rival political group managed to provoke defiance among the CAP personnel.

Whatever may have been the reasons for the unexpected withdrawal of the CAP personnel from Darjeeling, Chief Minister Jyoti Basu is reported to have taken a serious view of the matter and instructed the Chief Secretary Rathin Sen Gupta to submit a report after enquiry.

Bihar Naxalite Movement Fueled by Economic Woes

BK090310 Delhi PATRIOT in English
1 Jan 88 p 10

[Excerpt] Gaya, Bihar, Dec 31 (UNI)—Fuelled by caste conflicts and economic disparities, the Naxalite Movement is flourishing in central Bihar.

Nearly 12 Naxalite groups hold sway over militant landless peasants in areas where armed landlords are powerful and attack the poor often.

At least 75 blocks covering 90 police stations in 15 districts in the State are officially stated to be "Naxalite-infested". The worst-affected are Aurangabad, Jehanabad, Nalanda, Gaya, Patna, Bhojpur, and Nawadah.

The most prominent among the Naxalite groups are the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) led by Vinod Mishra, the Maoist Communist Centre (MCC), and the Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh Samiti (MKSS) led by Dr Vinayan.

The Maoist Communist Centre (MCC) shot to notoriety last May when 42 Rajputs were massacred at Baghura and Dalelchack in Aurangabad District. Thus indicating a new trend—that a Naxalite organisation was prepared to kill on caste lines.

The MCC, which is considered to be most aggressive, has taken up cudgels on the Yadavs behalf and has been responsible for killing at least 300 people in the past five years, police say.

The Aurangabad-based organisation's strength estimates vary from 20 to 500 members in the 'Lal Sena'.

The Vinod Mishra group also known as 'Liberation Group' controls many villages in 60 blocks of the Naxalite-affected districts.

The third underground organisation is the CPI-M-L party unity group which operates through the Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh Samiti (MKSS). The group is said to have links with the Indian People's Front (IPF) an umbrella organisation of 89 Marxist-Leninist groups in India.

The MCC and the MKSS have claimed that they grabbed 5000 acres of land owned by big landlords and redistributed them to the landless.

Police say that Naxalites have set up village committees to ensure payment of minimum wages to the farm workers.

Their 'peoples court' settle land disputes in favour of the poor peasantry.

The Lal Sena (Red Defence Corps) of the MCC collects levies from landlords and fixes share croppers quotas. Civil liberties groups say more than 400 people have died in such clashes since 1980 between armed bands of landlords and Naxalites.

The caste-based senas raised by landlords are 'Bhumi Sena' for (Khurmas), Brahmarshji (for Bhumihars), 'Kuar Sena' (Rajputs) and 'Loyik Sena' (Yadavs).

Interestingly, the 'new rich' in central Bihar are not traditional land-owning classes like Rajputs, Brahmins, or Bhumihars, but large sections of backward classes like Koeris, Kurmis, and Yadavs, police say.

Therefore, the conflict in many villages is between the backward classes who own lands and Harijans who are landless.

"Extremism in this region is because of land disputes and slow progress in carrying out land reforms", says Bihar's cabinet secretary R.N. Das.

The little land that is distributed to the poor is either uncultivable or is taken away by landlords by insidious means admit government officials.

Payment of minimum farm wages is another contentious issue between landlords and agricultural workers.

When the statutory minimum of Rs 11 for a day's work, the prevailing rate in rural Bihar varies from Rs three to four. The Naxalites have stepped in these areas for ensuring minimum wages.

According to land officials, 78,791 acres of surplus land is locked up in litigation in various courts.

Some time ago the State government had announced its decision to set up a tribunal but it is yet to be constituted.

Nearly 16,000 acres declared surplus lands since 1962, when the Land Ceiling Act was introduced, is yet to be distributed, the officials say. [passage omitted]

Bank Estimates on 1987 Agricultural Production

BK090510 Delhi PATRIOT in English
1 Jan 88 p 10

[Text] Bombay, Dec 31 (UNI)—The overall growth rate of agricultural production in 1986-87 is estimated to show a marginal decline as against a moderate rise of 1.9 percent in 1985-86 after a fall of 0.9 percent in 1984-85.

According to the report on currency and finance published by the Reserve Bank of India here, foodgrain production during 1986-87 is anticipated to be about 149 to 150 million tonnes as against 150.5 million tonnes 1985-86.

The target of foodgrains production for the year at 160 million tonnes comprises 89 million tonnes for kharif [winter crops] and 71 million tonnes for rabi [spring crops].

Erratic monsoons and widespread drought have been cited as the reasons for the shortfall in food production. Of the 35 meteorological sub-divisions, rainfall during 1986 was deficient or scanty in as many as 14 sub-divisions as against nine sub-divisions in the previous year and eight sub-divisions in 1984.

The report says that the kharif production, at 83 to 84 million tonnes in 1986-87, was expected to be lower than the target by five to six million tonnes and two to three million tonnes lower than the production in 1985-86.

Rabi production in 1986-87 is expected to be 66 million tonnes—which is higher than the production of 64.5 million tonnes in 1985-86 but may fall short of the target by five million tonnes.

Rice production in 1986-87 is estimated to be lower at 60 to 60.5 million tonnes as against the previous year's production of 64.1 million tonnes.

On the other hand, wheat output at 48 million tonnes is expected to be just close to the target of 49 million tonnes and higher than the production of 46.9 million tonnes achieved in 1985-86.

Coarse grains production, severely affected by drought in 1985-86, is expected to improve from 26.5 million tonnes in 1985-86 to 28 to 28.5 million tonnes in 1986-87. Even at this level, it would be short of the target of 32 million tonnes.

The production target of pulses in 1986-87 was 14 million tonnes but the actual production is anticipated to be 13 million tonnes, the same as 1985-86.

Among non-foodgrain crops, production of cotton and raw jute (including mesta) is placed lower in 1986-87 than in the previous year. Cotton production during the year is estimated by the Agriculture Ministry at 71.8 lakh bales as against 86.1 lakh bales last season.

Raw jute and mesta production stands at about 86.3 lakh bales as against the record production of 127.3 lakh bales in 1985-86.

The report says that the lower raw jute and mesta production during the year was mainly due to the initiative taken by the West Bengal Government to bring down the area under raw jute cultivation.

Despite lower production, total availability during the 1986-87 season of cotton, raw jute and mesta is anticipated to be comfortable due to large carry-over stocks from previous seasons.

Oilseeds production in 1986-87, however, was estimated to be higher at 12 to 12.3 million tonnes than the production of 11.2 million tonnes the previous year but still lower than the target of 14.8 million tonnes.

Sugarcane production in 1986-87 is expected to be about 175.5 million tonnes as compared with 171.7 million tonnes in 1985-86.

The report says that despite continued indifferent monsoons, the performance of agriculture could be characterised as modest partly due to the increase in consumption of inputs like fertilisers and high yielding seeds.

The estimated consumption of fertilisers in 1986-87 was around 92 lakh tonnes as compared to 87 lakh tonnes the previous year. Quality seeds distribution also increased from 55 lakh quintals in 1985-86 to 55.8 quintals in 1986-87.

The production of breeder seeds and certified seeds is also estimated to have gone up from 24,000 quintals and 44.8 lakh quintals in 1985-86 to 25,000 quintals and 56.5 lakh quintals respectively in 1986-87.

Iran

Khomeyni Letter Calls Khamene'i 'Capable'

LD112237 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in reply to a letter from President 'Ali Khamene'i, graciously said the following in an important message addressed to President Khamene'i:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, honorable president of the Islamic Republic, may your blessings continue.

Your kind letter was received with pleasure. I was in close contact with your excellency in the years before the revolution and, thanks be to God, the same sort of contact has continued. I believe that Your Excellency is one of the capable arms of the Islamic Republic, and I consider you a brother who is familiar with issues of jursiprudence, committed to them, and a serious supporter of religious principles related to absolute rule by chief jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih]. Among the friends and those committed to Islam and Islamic laws, you are one of the rare individuals who emit light like the sun.

Unfortunately, the Islamic Republic and its esteemed authorities have become targets of a propaganda onslaught by the world-devourers on charges of seeking the expansion of Islamic justice in the world. For instance, if they say the sun is bright, the next day world propaganda will begin interpretation, analysis, and explanation of the remark, and will accuse the Islamic

Republic and its friends in some way. As they are not familiar with Islamic jurisprudence and the selfless nation of Islam with its strong faith, their propaganda often ends up favoring the Islamic Republic. Of course, in view of our uprising based on the dear Islam and the fact that we said no to the East and the West and their agents, we do not expect them to praise us and our dear selfless nation. Fortunately, on the same issue of limiting the rule of the chief jurisconsult, I have recently seen that committed writers and speakers, familiar with Islamic matters, have discussed the issue in various sessions and newspapers, and I am grateful to all of them. It is hoped that the esteemed Friday imams, and particularly gentlemen such as you, who are very capable in raising issues, will pursue the matter, inform and enlighten the minds of the ignorant, and cut off the tongue of the enemies of Islam. Your Excellency and the great nation will witness how the mass media of Islam's opponents and their accomplices will resort to their satanic analyses of this letter.

In conclusion, I beseech Almighty God to grant health and prosperity to Your Excellency. May you and those like you become victorious and honored in your lofty goals. May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

[Dated] 21 Dey 1366 [11 January 1988]

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni

Here is the text of Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's letter to the imam of the ummah:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To the great and honorable leader of the revolution, his holiness Imam Khomeyni, may your lofty shadow remain on earth. Greetings.

I saw your auspicious letter, which was forwarded in reply to my letter, and I am grateful for your holiness's guidance, which as usual clarifies the bright path of Islam. A point that I deem necessary to mention is this: On the basis of the religious jurisprudence views of Your Holiness, which I learned from Your Holiness many years ago, I have accepted and acted accordingly. The points and instructions raised in your letter are part of the certainties, and I, as your servant, accept them all. What I meant by discussing the religious limits in the Friday prayers sermons is something I can explain in detail if required. May this dear and devoted nation, its responsible officials, and the entire great ummah of Islam enjoy many years of Your Holiness's alert and bright thinking and (?unique) leadership. May Almighty God prolong your lofty life until the advent of the Lord of the Era. May our souls be sacrificed for him.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

[Dated] 21 Dey 1366 .

Majlis Speaker on Khomeyni-Khamene'i Exchange
LD120838 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 12, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Tuesday expressed relief at the cordial exchange of opinion and messages between President Khamene'i and Imam Khomeyni on Monday. He said President Khamene'i's rejoinder to the imam on Monday and the imam's reply to him had in fact foiled enemies' conspiracies for suggesting difference in ideological platform between the authorities in the Islamic Government.

The Hojjat ol-Eslam who was addressing Majlis (Parliament) deputies at an open session of the Majlis called on the media to reflect on the developments judiciously and without being prompted by one's political alignment, and making sure that they will not write 'to please the enemies of the Islamic Republic.'

Elsewhere in his brief speech he addressed himself to the public and to responsible organizations calling on them to appreciate the servies of Muslim fighters in the battlefronts and render every necessary service to the relatives of Muslim combatants.

Musavi Addresses 10 Jan Cabinet Meeting
LD101611 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The Cabinet held a meeting this morning. According to our correspondent, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi began the meeting by delivering a speech and noting decrees and recommendations of the imam of the ummah about the limits and the responsibilities of Islamic government. Musavi also noted the effects of such foresight in solving administrative and executive problems. [passage omitted]

The correspondent also reports that the Cabinet approved the appointment of Engineer Khorram to the post of governor general of Hormozgan, while the efforts and activities of Nosratollah Tajik, the former governor general, were praised. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Statement on Mubarak's Tour
LD111606 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 11, IRNA—The Egyptian regime is nothing more than a mere U.S. pawn trying desperately to prolong regional tension, said the Foreign Ministry here today, referring to the Egyptian ruler, Husni Mubarak's current tour of Persian Gulf Arab states.

In a statement released Monday it termed Mubarak's trip to the Persian Gulf as a bid to distract public opinion in Egypt from major domestic problems.

Mubarak is trying to channel the wealth of Persian Gulf Arabs for strengthening U.S. policies in the Middle East and also to keep himself in power, in order to open the way for the Zionist regime to penetrate the Arab world, said the Foreign Ministry. As past experiences have proved only littoral states can maintain peace and security of the Persian Gulf, it added. Sincere cooperation and coordination of efforts by Persian Gulf countries can restore and guarantee peace and stability in the region in the best possible way, the statement noted.

The Foreign Ministry made it clear that infiltration of outsiders on the pretext of safeguarding security will merely entail increase in unrest and tension in the region.

The statement said while Egypt faces severe domestic problems and crisis which have shaken the very bases of Mubarak's regime, the Egyptian ruler unabashedly claims that the objective of his efforts is to help regional states safeguard their security.

Egypt's grave economic and social problems, the treacherous Camp David accord, strong opposition of Egyptian people towards the regime's silence on the Muslims' uprising in occupied Palestine, lays bare the emptiness of the new claimant's words—after the U.S. and NATO forces—to preserve security in the Persian Gulf.

Gharazi on 'Zohreh' Satellite Complex

LD091344 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Excerpts] In an interview with IRNA during his trip to Mazandaran, Mr Gharazi, minister of post, telegraph and telephone, spoke about the new plan for telephone supplies to applicants. [passage omitted]

Referring to the $600 million plan for the "Zohreh" [Venus] satellite complex, he said: According to plans, design research, and the purchase of the necessary technical and engineering equipment, the first satellite will be launched into space and placed in orbit in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] and the second in 1371. One satellite will be kept in reserve on the ground.

Concluding the interview, the minister referred to developments arising from the use of an independent satellite, saying: By using the "Zohreh" satellite complex, in addition to resolving communications problems resulting from various accidents, we will benefit from the facilities for the transfer of information, videophones, and television coverage for all the country's regions.

Khamene'i Address on Qom Uprising Anniversary

LD091348 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] On the anniversary of the glorious uprising of the people of Qom on 9 January 1978, Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president, spoke this morning at a gathering of the people of that city, which included the governor, families of the 9 January martyrs, outstanding pupils of Shahed schools, model farmers, Islamic organizations of administrative offices, and the officials of local councils. We continue our news report with portions of Mr Khamene'i remarks:

According to our reporter, the president praised the martyrs of the 9 January Qom uprising and said: These dear martyrs were the vanguards in those days, shouting slogans and risking their lives. They did not even fear the harshness and brutality of the tyrannical apparatus of the Pahlavi regime. Mr Khamene'i then discussed unity, saying: The creation of the Islamic Republic was the first mountain peak and, in this long mountain chain, the next peak is the preservation of the Islamic order and the safeguarding of its existence.

The president added: These are important times and if we maintain unity in expression, faith, and devotion, we will be victorious over all great powers.

Mr Khamene'i stressed: A ubiquitous, strong, astute, and prepared leadership succeeded in bringing the caravan home safely in our revolution.

In reference to the participation of the people in the forthcoming Majlis elections, the president said: The people must recognize their responsibility and religious obligation. They must participate in the Majlis elections.

In conclusion, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council referred to the response of the people to the plan for phased dispatches of troops to the fronts and the financial jihad and said: We must prepare ourselves with military training and, with consecutive and constant blows, continue the war until the destruction of Iraq's Zionist regime.

Stresses People's Solidarity

LD091601 Tehran IRNA in English 1531 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i said to a large gathering of people in the holy city of Qom Saturday "the power of the leadership and the unity between the leader, the people and the officials in Iran has alarmed the U.S. and its allies." But, he said, the Iranian nation feels stronger and will overcome the enemy relying on the same spirit.

President Khamene'i addressing the group on the 10th anniversary of the uprising of Qom people against the former regime (Jan 9, 1978) said that people of the city dauntlessly faced the danger under an atmosphere of utmost suppression and paved the way for the victory of the Islamic revolution (1979).

On the role people's faith coupled with the firmness of the leadership played in the victory of the revolution, the president noted that at present people in all Muslim states were ready to rise but lacked a faithful, firm leader who relied only on God.

"All these factors", he added "are crystalized in our unique and incomparable leader, Imam Khomeyni. It was the vigilant and decisive leader of the Islamic revolution who spearheaded the move and showed the way to the people who followed him and reached the peak."

Khamene'i stressing that to safeguard the revolution is another duty of the Muslim Iranian people, said that they should firmly resist the enemies. The Iranian people under their leadership and their deep faith in Islam could conquer other peaks as well, he added.

President Khamene'i referring to recent political shuttlings on the international scene against the Islamic revolution, said as a result of the firmness and unity of expression among the masses the Iranians will overcome plots of the big powers.

"The U.S. and its allies feel they cannot face a fresh rival and this is due to the power of this nation and leadership, and unity of the leadership, officials and the people," he said.

On the international arrogance's fear of an attack by Muslim forces, the president said "they were frightened of our presence at international circles, and of the imam's statements."

He called on the people to preserve their spirit of devotion and actively take part in the forthcoming elections.

The president who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council described people's presence in war fronts as satisfactory and said that the 20-million strong army whose formation was proposed by the Imam has exceeded 30 million.

He stressed that the nation should be prepared for defence and should provide all defensive means to enable Muslim forces to deal constant blows on the enemy until the downfall of Saddam's (Iraqi ruler) regime.

Speaks to Battalion Commanders

LD091751 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Speaking at a gathering of commanders of the Help-the-Fighters battalions, President Khamene'i stressed the necessity for creating such battalions, saying: In the history of our country and Islam I have not seen such a gigantic movement, with such widespread dimensions, supported so strongly by the people. Of course, there are examples of helping the fighters in the history of Islam, as during the prophet's time, when people were paired off, such that if one went to the war fronts the other was responsible for looking after his family.

This is an extremely important movement. Looking after the families of fighters is very important.

Referring to the permanent fight between Islam and the arrogant ones, he said: Islam is not frightened of fighting the enemies of God. We are in such an arena today. They have imposed this battle on Islam. God's message has always been the scene of battle against devils and idols. If it had not defended itself, honor would not exist in the world today. I tell the people to attach importance to this task and to take it seriously.

IRGC Announces 'Help the Fighters' Days

LD091942 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] The deputy personnel [as heard] of the IRGC, describing the 4-month performance of the Help the Fighters battalions, said in an exclusive interview with our correspondent:

The extensive participation of the people in rendering services to the honorable families of fighters inspired us to declare 11-20 January the Help the Fighters days. The agenda is as follows:

11 January: The day to introduce Help the Fighters days to the people.

12-15 January: The days to hold registration and Help the Fighters week in various places and offices. On those days, by referring to the various levels of mobilization resistance, the people will fill in forms for joining these battalions.

16 January: The day of analytical exercises for the battalions.

17-20 January: The days to visit and serve the families of the fighters.

Moqtada'i on Judges' Participation in War

LD102126 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Text] Remarks by the spokesman for the Supreme Judicial Council concerning the participation of judges in the Help the Fighters battalions, as well as removing judicial problems of the families of warriors of Islam are the subject of our next report.

The spokesman for the Supreme Judicial Council, Moqtada'i, in a press, radio and television interview this afternoon outlined the method of participation of judges in the Help the Fighters battalions. Referring to the results of the formation of these battalions, he said: The formation of these battalions and their acceptance of members who are going to aid the warriors and those who have risen for Islam, as well as their families, is a noble Islamic move and a valuable humane and divine act. This took place at the time of the messenger of God, blessings be upon him and all his scions, and has been noted and encouraged in religious history by the imams.

Referring to the judges' ways of participating in the battalions, he said: Judges from around the country, judges from the Prosecutor's Office and revolutionary courts, as well as all organizations affiliated with the Prosecutor's Office, are invited to participate in this holy movement by registering in these battalions and by offering their services to the families of the warriors.

Discussing the actions taken by the Supreme Judicial Council to remove judicial problems of the families of warriors of Islam, Moqtada'i said: Following the formation of law departments for the warriors under the control of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in a circular the Supreme Judicial Council asked all judges and prosecutors to offer their full cooperation. In this respect lawyers and judges have announced their readiness and in many places action has been taken to support the legal work of the warriors and their families.

Majlis Speaker Assesses Ties With Turkish Envoy

LD091852 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 9 Jan 88

["Hashemi-Rafsanjani Advises Persian Gulf States To Excercise Prudence"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA—Turkish Ambassador to Tehran Vulkan Vural briefed Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the results of the recent general elections in Turkey as well as the latest developments in Tehran-Ankara relations, in a meeting here today.

Vural said the two countries share many common views and that Turkish people have a feeling of brotherhood towards Iranian Muslims. "Turkey believes that Persian Gulf issues should be settled by the littoral states themselves, and regional states should govern their own fate", he added.

In reply the Majlis speaker emphasised, since Turkish people are Muslims, Iran gives priority to its relations with that neighbouring country. "We wish to be on friendly terms with the Persian Gulf countries as we are with Turkey, and that no major condition exists for this friendship except that they should be neutral in the Iraqi-imposed war" Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said commenting on Persian Gulf issues.

Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani continue if Iran's relations with the regional countries are clouded it is because of these very countries' faults. [sentence as received]

"The gun slinger United States can never be present in the region for good and I advise regional rulers to be wise and promote their relations with neighbours who wish them good," he added.

The speaker referring to the Iraqi-imposed war said Iran's conditions for ending the war are fair and those who are really interested to see it end should not by-pass justice.

The Iraqi regime has committed great crimes against the Iranian Muslims and has imposed a big war on the Islamic Republic which has resulted in heavy losses. If such issues are not solved they would remain a recurring cause of trouble which is against a stable peace in the region, noted Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

He made it clear that the region will not see stable peace without justice and that none of those who have stepped forward to end the war have taken justice seriously. "We would not reject a fair plan in this regard," he stressed.

Iravani, Pakistan Envoy Discuss Trade Ties

LD071453 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan 7, IRNA—Tehran-Islamabad Bilateral ties including contents of a letter of understanding inked between the two countries last October, were discussed in a meeting between the new Pakistani ambassador Tanvir Ahmad Khan and Economic and Financial Affairs Minister Mohammad Javad Iravani here today.

In the meeting Iravani said that Iran will purchase Pakistani rice as stipulated in the letter and is ready to supply Islamabad with its oil needs, more than the volume agreed in the letter, he stressed.

Iravani referring to the tax agreement on the Karachi-based joint shipping company 'transship good', Iran's non-oil exports to Pakistan and facilities provided by Islamabad in this regard, hoped that contents of the letter would be fully implemented as already agreed.

In reply Tanvir Ahmad Khan said his country would take necessary measures for implementation of the letter of understanding, signed during Iravani's visit to Pakistan late last October.

Yugoslav Envoy Discusses Trade With Shafe'i

LD071333 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 7, IRNA—The Yugoslav ambassador to Tehran, Mirko Zaric, in a meeting here Thursday with Minister of industries Gholam Reza Shafe'i discussed ways of expanding bilateral economic relations. They also discussed problems hindering delivery of raw materials to Iran.

According to Yugoslav diplomat, as a step towards expanding mutual relations, the Yugoslav deputy trade minister will visit Iran in the near future.

Shafe'i called on Yugoslavian officials to remove problems which prevented their country to meet its obligations towards Iran. He also said that factors such as changes in the price of oil and stock market crisis which have reduced Iran-Yugoslavia exchanges, are caused by games played by the U.S. and its allies.

A solution to the problem is to adopt barter trade policy, Shafe'i said, adding that oil alone is not sufficient to improve trade relations between the two countries.

The Yugoslav diplomat admitting that certain problems prevented his country from meeting its obligations, said that the difficulties were caused by international exchange crisis and also the change in foreign exchange laws of Yugoslavian banks.

Zaric expressed hope that through solving the problems, bilateral economic and industrial relations as well as export of industrial machineries to Iran will be expanded.

Soviet Youths Said Avoiding Military Service

NC120835 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Youths in the Tajik SSR are avoiding military service because they fear they may be sent to Afghanistan. In its latest edition, KOMMUNIST TADZHIKISTANA quoted the director of the Tajik police organization as saying that Tajik youths would rather go to prison than be forced to go to Afghanistan. The newspaper also added that active Muslims in the Tajik SSR have been calling for a jihad against the government.

Tens of the leading Muslims have been arrested and [word indistinct].

Tehran Comments on USSR'S Mideast Policy

NC081908 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1532 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Unattributed commentary from the "Weekly Report" feature]

[Text] Today all observers of the Soviet Union's Middle East policy are confronting a great ambiguity in the Soviet Union's position on the Persian Gulf. The Russians are gradually making it increasingly clear that they favor the approval of a resolution on an arms embargo on Iran. Even though they have tried thus far to propound certain conditions in a bid to postpone the moment of decision, nevertheless that moment will eventually come.

In Moscow's newest approach, the Soviet Union's representative at the United Nations stated that his country supports another visit by Javier Perez de Cuellar to the region to study the views of Iran and Iraq once again, and that the approval of any resolution on an arms embargo will be contingent on the outcome of this visit. The question is: What is the reason for this political behavior of the Russians? Some believe that during the Washington conference, the Americans made promises of White House cooperation in solving the Afghanistan issue in exchange for the Russians' assistance in solving the Persian Gulf problems and the Iran-Iraq war. Even though the upcoming Geneva conference will further clarify these points, nevertheless the views expressed by the parties involved in the Afghanistan issue clearly show that there is still a long way to go before the first phase of an agreement is reached. On the anniversary of the occupation of Afghanistan, Reagan sent a strongly worded message in which he described the Russian presence in Afghanistan as abominable and said that the Soviet Union continues to ignore its promises. These remarks, coupled with the absence of a clear and acceptable plan by the parties involved in the Afghanistan issue, makes any type of real agreement on this issue quite impossible. This is why observers of the Soviet Union's stand on the Iran-Iraq war do not take the link between Afghanistan problem and the Iran-Iraq war seriously, at least at this stage, particularly as Iran's long border with Afghanistan creates a situation in which Tehran's refusal of secret solutions on Afghanistan can foil any plan.

However, if the Russians' stand on the Persian Gulf is not linked in this way with the Afghanistan issue, then what should be used as a basis for analysis? Are the promises by Russian officials on participating in an arms embargo serious or only diplomatic and political maneuverings?

Another group believes that the Russians propound issues such as the arms embargo merely within the framework of political maneuvering and news conferences so that they can maintain their international policy of pleasing everyone. According to this view, the Russians know that an arms embargo against Iran cannot work and that, even if approved, it will take a long time for it to be properly implemented. Thus they agree with it in an ambiguous manner, hoping that they will persuade Iran to accept a political solution. However, there are problems in this analysis, too. Remarks by Russian officials—some of whom have made their support for an arms embargo on Iran very explicit and have dropped the condition of the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Persian Gulf—simply show that the Russians' deeds are not merely for political effect.

Meanwhile, there exists a third analysis which clarifies the Soviet Union's behavior, given the principles of the Kremlin's foreign policy and the current Arab-U.S. situation. This view holds that Moscow's current foreign policy is founded on displaying a moderate stand until the critical moment. The engineers of this policy try to have good relations with all countries and to postpone a decision on taking sides or on abandoning their moderate stand until the last moment. It is exactly because of this that the Russians have sought to come as close as possible to Iran and have signed economic and oil agreements with it. They pursue the same policy on Japan, China, Europe, the United States, and all those nations who are active in the world. The Soviet Union's political behavior toward everyone is based on the same principle: to pursue a moderate stand and avoiding serious intervention on behalf of one party, except in cases of crisis. The main engineers of this policy—Gorbachev, Anatoliy Dobrynin, and Shevardnadze—do not want to involve the Soviet Union in anything that will increase its vulnerability. This is the same policy that they have pursued so far on the Persian Gulf and the Iran-Iraq war. While supplying arms assistance to Iraq, they have tried to improve their relations with Tehran. Each time an envoy was sent to Tehran from Moscow, a delegation was also sent to Baghdad, so that in this way any possibility of vulnerability on the political scene would be avoided.

This policy, however, has gradually started to lose its effectiveness in a war as immense as the Iran-Iraq war, which has obliged all powers to state their views and stands. On the one hand, the Russians see that the policy of U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf has been completely defeated and that no one takes this presence in its current form seriously or considers it to be effectve. Thus the plans of other countries have been given a chance. On the other hand, the Soviet Union feels that because of the possible threat to them posed by the continuation of the war, the reactionary Arab leaders are daily inclining more and more toward the United States and the West. The culmination of this inclination could be seen in the Amman conference and the GCC summit. The Russians feel that if they continue their previous line, they may lose the astronomic loans from the Arabs [as heard] and their future economic-political presence in Arab countries. They also feel that if they do not react more strongly toward Iran, the Americans will become the only defender among the Arab reactionaries, and this will pave the grounds for the United States to take strategic steps where the future of the Middle East is concerned. At this juncture, the Soviet Union has altered its stand; it is gradually moving away from its previous position toward a more overt stand on the war. At the same time it is trying, as much as possible, to postpone the moment of decision.

Moscow's request to the UN secretary general to pay another visit to the region stems precisely from this. But is this a logical policy, at a time when the Americans are still prepared at the slightest smile from Tehran to sell out all the Arabs for the sake of establishing a small relationship with Iran? What will the Russians gain from this stand? The United States understands very well Iran's sensitive role in the region and if, under such conditions, the Russians join in the arms embargo, they will destroy all the bridges that have been built so far. Moreover, because of their intrinsic fear of communism and the natural compatibility between their systems and capitalism, the Arabs will certainly not turn toward the Soviet Union. The only outcome of the Russians' act can be that the Americans will benefit and their position will be strengthened.

The strength that Iran has shown in the past year in the Persian Gulf proves the seriousness of the remarks by our officials that if such a plan is implemented, all Persian Gulf ports will become obsolete. If the Russians go along with the Americans in this, they will be repeating the same mistake they once made when they leased their tankers to Kuwait. The difference, though, is that it is easy to make up for some mistakes, but difficult or impossible to do so for others.

Deputy Oil Minister To Visit Japan

LD091923 Tehran IRNA in English 1856 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA—An Iranian oil delegation headed by deputy Minister of oil for international and trade affairs Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili is to leave for Tokyo on Sunday.

The Iranian delegation will hold talks with Japanese companies' officials on the volume of oil purchases from Iran during 1988.

Some Japanese companies were quoted as saying that they will decrease oil purchases from Iran at the instructions of Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

In reply to the reports, Minister of Oil Gholam Reza Aqazadeh announced last week that he had received no formal report on the issue on the part of Japanese authorities.

Kazempur-Ardabili will convince the Japanese companies buying Iranian oil, to continue importing the same volume of oil from the Islamic Republic, because

Media Official Returns From Foreign Tour

LD092133 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Seyyed Mohammad Hashemi, secretary of the Council for the Supervision of the Voice and Vision, visited several eastern Asian countries, including the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand, at the head of a delegation comprising heads of the Industries and Labor and Social Affairs Committees of the Majlis. His purpose was to expose the crimes of the house of Al Sa'ud in the bloody Friday tragedy in Mecca. He returned to Tehran on Saturday.

During meetings with the clergy and in seminaries at each stop, the delegation discussed Islamic issues and the role of world Muslims in the management of the holy houses. Also, during gatherings of Muslims of those countries and Friday prayers ceremonies, the Iranian delegation described the crimes of the house of Al Sa'ud and other issues relating to the Islamic world. In each country, while stressing the global leadership of Imam Khomeyni, the Muslims gave the Iranian delegation an outstanding welcome.

Members of Election Oversight Delegation Named

LD102110 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the single priority proposal to charge water rates for agricultural land in the city of Zabol, as well as the single priority proposal for doctors' surgeries—which were approved at today's Majlis session in the presence of members of the Council of Guardians—were reviewed during the Council of Guardians session.

The Majlis was then informed that neither proposal contravenes the Shari'a or the Constitution. Also, during the session the names of the members of the Council of Guardians' Central Supervisory Delegation to oversee the third-term Majlis elections and mid-term Council of Experts elections were announced as follows: Mr Mohammad Emami-Kashani, head of the delegation, and Messrs (Seyyed 'Abdolmajid Irvani), (Ahmad 'Alizadeh), ('Ali Akbar Ash'ari), and (Mohhmad Me'marzadeh), members of the delegation.

Commentary on U.S. Force Reduction in Gulf

LD071648 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1113 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Unattributed commentary: "The Failure of Reagan's Militaristic Policies in the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] Concurrent with the visit to the Persian Gulf littoral countries by Frank Carlucci, the U.S. war [as heard] secretary, U.S. sources recently announced that the country's war secretary plans to withdraw the helicopter carrier "Okinawa" and the battleship "Iowa" from the region in the coming months.

The sources explained this action by referring to the $20 million per month cost of the presence of the U.S. ships in the Persian Gulf. To a remarkable extent, they tried to justify the recall of the helicopter carrier "Okinawa" and the battleship "Iowa" in terms of the need to reduce expenditures in the war [as heard] department. However, bearing in mind the evident ineffectiveness of Reagan's militaristic policies in the Persian Gulf and the perilous future of those U.S. forces in the region, it seems that despite the above-mentioned justifications, the Reagan administration has been forced to make gradual changes in the size of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf.

At the same time that these changes appeared, the U.S. war department and Reagan himself explicitly emphasized there was no change in Washington's policy and they tried to prevent the spread of anxiety and the lack of trust of the Persian Gulf littoral governments with respect to the future of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf. However, the sudden and unexplained removal of Caspar Weinberger, the influential and swift acting war secretary of the Reagan administration, and the appointment of Frank Carlucci to the position of war secretary can in fact be seen as the creation of a suitable stratagem. Moreover, the Reagan administration, by using this stratagem, can in practical terms bring about changes regarding its militaristic policies in the Persian Gulf region and the arms race between the East and West.

This is clearly seen when we consider that immediately upon assuming office, Frank Carlucci openly expressed the U.S. war department's inclination to reduce the country's military forces in the Persian Gulf. In addition to this, he said he had had discussions with Margaret Thatcher regarding changes in the plan for a joint mission of the British and U.S. forces stationed in the Persian Gulf.

At any rate, the point is this: After the unsuccessful presence of U.S. ships in the Persian Gulf the last few months, and following the increasing scope of opposition inside the United States, the Reagan administration is trying to the greatest possible extent to prepare the ground for a retreat from the current impasse by means of a gradual reduction of forces. Of course, despite these indications, one cannot say that these changes will lead to the final withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Persian Gulf in the near future.

However, not only has the arrival and presence of U.S. forces led to the worsening and spreading of tension in practical terms, but at the same time it has also turned the sensitive and vital Persian Gulf region into a powder keg, which in the event of an explosion—besides setting on fire the countries which have fanned the flames—will seriously engulf the U.S. and European forces, the real arsonists.

Therefore, the members of the U.S. Administration should take another look at the dangerous consequences of the continued presence of U.S. and European forces and withdraw as soon as possible their installations and forces from this dangerous quagmire.

UNSC 23 December Statement Condemned

NC101247 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0620 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Unattributed commentary from the "Voice of the Front" program]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Among the accomplishments of the UN Security Council is the issuance of the 23 December statement regarding the Iran-Iraq war. With the adoption of Resolution 598, the Security Council had in fact proved that it acts in concert with the imperialist motives of the United States. However, in view of the extensive concurrence between the Council's members on Saddam's aggression and on the Iraqi Armed Forces' initiation of the imposed war, it had appeared likely that the Council would divert from its path of total agreement with U.S. interests and the Iraqi regime. However, the 23 December statement confirmed that U.S. leverage and clout is so great that Security Council's actions are determined by the White House.

Without so much as mentioning the inchoate nature of Resolution No 598, Iran's nonacceptance of the resolution, and the slow pace of the secretary general's efforts to effect a cease-fire between Iran and Iraq, the latest Security Council statement merely expressed apprehension and insisted that the two countries desist from continuing the war. [passage omitted]

The implied threat in the utterances of the Soviet UN representative, who currently heads the Security Council, and the opinions aired by the U.S. representative, indicate that there was a consensus between the two powers of oppression within the Security Council at a session that aimed to exert greater pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran. This consensus resulted in an agreement between them for Iraq's benefit. Even though diplomatic circles feel that the main impediment to a final agreement is the difference of opinion between the two superpowers on the subject of how to implement an arms embargo, the fact that the superpowers arrived at a unanimous decision is indicative of the true nature of the Security Council and the White House's domination over it.

The British representative in the Security Council commented on the latest session by saying that a proposal for an arms embargo against Iran will be approved soon. What is certain is that the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance is clear and consistent and is acceptable to most of the Council members.

The Islamic Republic of Iran considers identifying the aggressor and establishing a committee to determine how the aggressor should be penalized as the first step toward a principled solution to the war issue. No compromise with the aggressor can possibly be considered. This very problem is instrumental in continuing the aggression and provides an opportunity for the aggressor. In a way, it also is an endorsement of his aggression. Therefore, the only path open to the Islamic Republic of Iran is to take the initiative out of the hands of the aggressor as the UN Charter specifies. Failing this, the region will witness new aggression.

The Council did not wish to deviate from the path of U.S. domination this time as well. The United States violated Clause 5 of Resolution No 598 as soon as it was approved. However, the Security Council gave its blessing to this act of retrogression under U.S. pressure and applied pressure on Iran. Even now the UN Security Council proved—by issuing the latest statement—that it is under the influence of the U.S. desire to impose an arms and economic embargo in order to grip Islamic Iran in a vise.

However, the United States and all of its allies, as well as all of the superpowers, should know, as they have seen so far, that the Islamic Republic of Iran is blessed with a great fervor that can blacken the fate of the White House and its allies and agents in the region.

Our final words are: Either they should come to their senses and accept Iran's rightful demands of eliminating Saddam so that the region may become tranquil once again, or if they intend to continue their adventurism in the region in favor of Saddam, then let them come here. The game is being played here. They will soon understand that the Persian Gulf will become a maelstrom which will not subside with Saddam's political demise. This maelstrom will also swallow all of the reactionary Arab regimes as well as the U.S. forces in the region.

In short, we wish to state that the UN Security Council has clearly shown that its international obligation is to violate the Security Council's Charter and that it has no other mission except to defend the aggressor and to repress the oppressed. [passage omitted]

Naval Training Center Opens in Bushehr

NC110704 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the Martyr Beheshti Naval Training Center in Bushehr, affiliated to the Construction Jihad's [name indistinct] Headquarters, has been inaugurated. This naval center will train forces to support fighters stationed on the Persian Gulf coasts and islands, who are resisting foreign forces and the aggressive United States. Commanders of heavy- and medium-class ships manufactured by the Construction Jihad, seamen, deep sea and semi-deep sea divers, enginemen, and repairmen will be offered courses at this center.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Kurds Disrupt Iraq-Turkey Road

LD101158 Tehran IRNA in English 1013 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., Jan. 10, IRNA—The Iraq-Turkey transit road will be less safe for traffic, said the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party in a statement Sunday.

The statement warning foreign companies against using the transit road said that the Kurdish Muslim militants took control of the road for several hours last Friday during which a number of trailer-trucks carrying goods for the Iraqi regime were destroyed.

The statement added that from now on foreign companies and their governments will be responsible for the consequences of using the road.

While the transit road was seized, in Zakhu region, militant Kurds attacked a troop concentration center of Iraqi forces in Basteki area, near the road killing and wounding tens of the Iraqi forces and setting ablaze all vehicles in the base.

Iraqi Missile Pad Destroyed

LD111711 Tehran IRNA in English 1633 GMT 11 Jan 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Jan. 11, IRNA—An Iraqi missile pad on the eastern banks of River Tigris was subjected to accurate fire of Iranian Muslim combatants Sunday and destroyed.

The sophisticated Iraqi missile pad recently deployed by the Ba'thist army, was reconnoitred by the Muslim combatants' patrol units and destroyed by heavy fire of the Iranian forces. The crew manning the pad were killed as a result of the destruction.

Communique No 3,078

LD111716 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 11, IRNA—Iraqi Ba'thist forces fired chemical shells in one of the operational regions opposite Sardasht, western fronts Sunday, induring some Muslim combatants of Iran, said a military communique released here Monday.

The 3078th Communique of the Joint Staff Command said Iranian Navy intercepted 8 foreign cargo ships and tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Sunday, but permitted them to proceed since they had no Iraq-bound cargo aboard.

Iranian Air Force planes, said the communique, carried out their reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman waters successfully over the past 24 hours.

The communique said Muslim combatants subjected Iraqi positions and fortifications to their heavy artillery and mortar fire in the Yebis region yesterday, killing several Iraqi forces and setting ablaze parts of enemy positions. Movement of Iraqi motorized units and engineering activites in Yebis were completed checked, it added. [sentence as received]

Iraqi forces also sustained heavy casualties and damage in Nahr 'Anbar operational region yesterday, said the communique.

The communique continued that three enemy patrol groups attempted to penetrate the Muslim combatants' positions in Yebis, Hoseyniyeh, and Eynkhosh, but were forced to flee suffering heavy casualties.

In Panjwin and Hoseyniyeh, the Muslim forces of Iran silenced Iraqi tank fire yesterday, inflicted considerable damage, concluded the communique.

Al-Sulaymaniyah Bases Set Afire

LD111836 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 11, IRNA—Three Iraqi bases were set afire in Al- Sulaymaniyah Province by Iraq's Kurdish Peshmergas last Saturday, according to Ramadan Headquarters Monday.

More than 15 Iraqi forces were killed and wounded and a command jeep of theirs set ablaze in the course of attacks by the Peshmergas on three Iraqi bases of the Kulkan-Diyanah Road (Kukh-Aziz region), northeastern Iraq.

5 Jan Explosion on Iranair Plane Reported

TA061944 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Our co-strugglers report from Tehran that yesterday a bomb exploded in a plane that was scheduled to fly from Tehran to Mashhad. This report indicates that a large number of Iranair passengers were wounded in the explosion, which occurred as the plane was ready for takeoff from the Mehrabad Airport runway. The Islamic Republic has not disseminated news of this explosion.

Pakistan

Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan Critically Ill

BK111616 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] The condition of the Frontier Gandhi, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, is stated to be critical. His son Wali Khan told our correspondent in Islamabad that Badshah [king] Khan is in the state of coma. A number of his followers thronged the hospital in Peshawar where he is admitted as news of his condition spread in the frontier province. Badshah Khan returned to Pakistan last August after undergoing treatment in Bombay and New Delhi.

Bearing Arms, Processions Banned in Karachi

BK111550 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 11 Jan 28

[Text] At a high-level meeting in Karachi today, the law and order situation in Sind, particularly in Karachi, was reviewed. Various steps were discussed at the meeting to maintain a peaceful situation. Provincial Minister (Pir Sibghatulllah Shah) presided over the meeting.

Meanwhile, the district magistrate, Karachi-East, has issued orders banning, with immediate effect, the carrying of weapons in public places and participation or joining in any procession or demonstration. This ban is not applicable to funeral or marriage processions. This order will be in force for 30 days.

Zain Noorani Returns From Paris 9 Jan

BK090639 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] France has reaffirmed its support to the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan in their efforts to solve the Afghanistan issue through peaceful negotiations. This was stated by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani after his return from Paris this morning. During his stay in the French capital, the minister of state for foreign affairs had a detailed exchange of views with the French foreign minister, Raimond, on matters of mutual interest and international issues. Zain Noorani said he had discussions with the chairman of the French Foreign Affairs Committee and adviser to Prime Minister Chirac on matters of bilateral interest.

Editorial Sees Greater Cooperation With USSR

BK091048 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
2 Jan 88 p 4

[Editorial: "More Trade With USSR"]

[Text] The recent trade agreement between Pakistan and the USSR of US $34 million for 1988 may seem little in view of Dr Mahbubul Haq's vision of a leap in economic relations between the two countries, particularly to overcome the effects of the West's protectionist measures. However, it must be remembered that this is the minimum barter trade proposed for 1988 and the actual trade can be much larger if both sides make efforts to do so.

Pakistan will have to import more from the USSR if the volume of trade between them is to increase substantially. This year's trade agreement included new items to be traded, such as urea, cotton and a variety of machinery. Dr Haq is particularly interested in importing textile machinery from the Soviet Union in view of the long lead time needed now to import such machinery from the West, particularly West Germany and Japan whose currencies have also been soaring. It would indeed be useful for the expansion of Pakistan's textiles industry if such textile machinery could be imported more quickly from the USSR.

Since trade with Moscow has a political bias, large-scale economic cooperation of the kind envisaged by Dr Haq demands a much improved political climate between the two countries. With an Afghan settlement nearer now than ever before, and the scheduled visit of a high-powered economic delegation to the USSR within the next few months, the prospects of greater economic cooperation seem bright.